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British Columbia's Queen Elizabeth II, who is celebrating her 60th birthday, is expected to visit the province in the near future. The Queen's visit is being celebrated with a series of events, including a royal gala dinner and a parade. The Queen is expected to arrive in Victoria on August 21, 1994, and will spend several days in the province before heading to other parts of Canada.

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(R) — A youth killed a student during a riot in New York. The riot broke out during a protest against the Gulf War. The youth was charged with murder and is being held in custody.

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CH, Calif. (AP) — A 2-year-old boy was tossed from a balcony in a swimming pool. The boy was found floating in the pool and was taken to a hospital. The incident is being investigated by local authorities.

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— An elderly man cancelled a holiday in Woodstock. The man was planning to go to Woodstock for a festival, but he decided to cancel his trip because of the weather. He is now staying at home.

Clinton steps up pressure on Havana

WASHINGTON (AP) — A day after pulling in a decades-old economic aid to Cuban refugees, President Bill Clinton announced Saturday new measures to intensify pressure on the communist regime in Havana. A statement said the United States was halting cash transfers by Cuban-Americans to their former homeland, cutting off an important source of hard currency for the economically ailing country. Other measures were stepped-up radio broadcasts in Cuba, a cutback in charter flights between the two countries and efforts to seek a harder international line on human rights abuses in Cuba. "The solution to Cuba's many problems is not an uncontrolled exodus, it is freedom and democracy for Cuba," said the U.S. president, whose country has maintained an economic embargo against Havana for 32 years. The new measures came amid criticism that Mr. Clinton was not being hard enough on Cuba's government while cracking down on refugees Friday and ending a 28-year-old policy of granting them quick and easy asylum here (See page 4).

Volume 18 Number 5693

AMMAN SUNDAY, AUGUST 21, 1994, RABI' ALAWAL 14, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

King concedes Masri family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Saturday sent a cable of condolences to Hikmat Al Masri and the Masri family over the death of Mazouz Al Masri, a former mayor of the West Bank city of Nablus who passed away Thursday at the age of 85. "I have received with shock and grief news about the passing of my big brother Haj Mazouz Al Masri after a life of work and perseverance for the sake of his homeland and people," said the King in the cable. "As I express to you and the Masri family the warmest feelings of condolences, I remember what the late dear brother has offered in the fields of charity and giving. He was close to the late King Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, and was from the old generation who... shouldered their responsibilities in defending the rights of the Arab Palestinian people he was one of those who supported their brethren and stood for the unity of both banks of the eternal Jordan River," added the King. Mr. Masri was laid to rest in his hometown of Nablus on Friday.

Israeli shelling kills 1, wounds 3

NABATIYEH (AP) — Israeli forces fired mortars on a village in southern Lebanon Saturday, killing a civilian man and wounding three women, security sources said. It was not immediately known what triggered the Israeli shelling against the village of Arah Salim on the edge of the central sector of an Israeli-occupied border enclave in South Lebanon. The security sources said sporadic shelling of the village from an Israeli hilltop outpost of Zaffata began at midnight. At 2 p.m. (1100 GMT) several shells hit the Beirut southern quarters in the village, killing Hassan Musa, 45, and injuring Amina Hanjoul, 45, Afiya Musa, 28, and Mouna Hammoud, 28, said the sources. Several houses were damaged in Arah Salim, eight kilometers north of this southern market town, said the sources. There was no immediate comment from Israel on the shelling.

U.N. soldiers clash with Somali gunmen

NAIROBI (R) — U.N. peacekeepers from Nigeria shot dead two Somalis and captured eight others in Somalia on Saturday when gunmen attacked their convoy outside the southern port Merca, a military spokesman said. "The Nigerians managed to kill two of the attackers and captured eight of them," U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM) military spokesman Major Richard McDonald told Reuters in Nairobi by telephone. Maj. McDonald could not say what UNOSOM would do with the prisoners.

'Mistaken identity' Poly Peck shooting

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish police were searching for a gunman on Saturday in the mistaken-identity shooting of a British consultant at a firm investigating the collapse of the Poly Peck international trading group. David Adams, who works for Poly Peck administrators Coopers and Lybrand, was shot twice in the right leg on Friday outside his office in Istanbul. Mr. Adams, who is not involved in the Poly Peck inquiry, was taken to the American hospital, where he was in good condition. Sources close to the Poly Peck case said the attacker had been making inquiries at the Coopers and Lybrand office about the man in charge of the investigation. He later mistook Mr. Adams for his intended target and opened fire, they said. The sources also said the head of Coopers and Lybrand's inquiry, Chris Howell, who is giving a sworn statement in case before a north Cyprus court, had been assaulted by two Turkish men outside a flat in Istanbul on June 7.

Israeli soldiers kill 1, injure 8 in Ramallah

RAMALLAH, occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers disguised as Arabs shot dead a Palestinian in the occupied West Bank on Saturday, witnesses said. A Palestinian photographer for Reuters was among at least eight Arabs wounded in the violence. Photographer Khaled Al Zaghari, shot in the left shoulder, said undercover soldiers waded into a crowd of stone-throwers and opened fire with pistols at close range in the town of Ramallah, just north of Jerusalem. Palestinians said the incident occurred during a Hamas rally to mark the birth of the Prophet Mohammad. Mr. Zaghari said he was shot while trying to take cover in a shop. "The man who was shot with me has died now in hospital. His family has taken his body," Mr. Zaghari said in a hospital in Ramallah, which discharged him after removing the bullet. Hospital officials said eight other Palestinians were wounded in the town. The army put the figure at seven and said it could not confirm any deaths. It declined immediate comment on whether undercover soldiers carried out the shootings. Clashes with Israeli

occupation troops have been less frequent in the West Bank since the signing last September of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accord on Palestinian self-rule. Mnech of the focus of Israeli-Palestinian tensions has shifted to Gaza, where guerrillas opposed to the peace deal have been mounting attacks against Israeli troops and civilians near Jewish settlements in the strip. But Palestinian residents of occupied areas outside the autonomous enclaves of Gaza and Jericho say they are impatient to see Israeli troops leave. In a first step leading to a pullout, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said after meeting PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza on Friday that Israel would begin implementing "early empowerment" in the West Bank next week. He said the handover of power to the Palestinians would begin with their taking responsibility for education in the area on Sept. 1. Mr. Peres said overall agreement also would be reached next week on the other spheres of expanded self-rule: tourism, taxation, social affairs and health. Violence was also reported

on Saturday in the West Bank town of Hebron, where a Jewish settler killed dozens of Palestinians at prayer in February, Palestinian sources said. Israeli soldiers last killed a Palestinian on Wednesday when an army patrol shot a suspected infiltrator on the border between Palestinian-ruled Gaza and Egypt. Under the peace deal, Israel is responsible for security along the frontier. The Palestinian police chief said meanwhile his force will not take up arms against Islamic fundamentalists who attack Israelis, but will instead use persuasion to stop them. Israel has urged the Palestinians to rein in opponents to the peace process who have attacked Israelis. Five Israelis have died in Gaza in such attacks since the Palestinian autonomy began in May, but the Palestinian police have so far not laid any charges. Palestinian sources have said off the record that no charges are likely. Gaza police commander Major General Ghazi Jahali told Israel Radio that the Palestinian police did not want to risk civil war by directly confronting Hamas, the main opponent to the peace process.

Clinton sees 'steady' Syria-Israel progress

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President Bill Clinton said he saw steady progress in peace talks between Israel and Syria but acknowledged that "serious problems" remain. "I believe that we are still on a path of steady progress in the hope of achieving an agreement to resolve the differences between Israel and Syria," Mr. Clinton told a news conference Friday. The attempt to end 27 years of hostilities between the two countries had been the thorniest part of efforts to nail down a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. "Serious problems remain but I think significant advances are being made," Mr. Clinton said. Mr. Clinton also played down what he called "operational difficulties" in implementation of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on limited Palestinian autonomy in Jericho and the Gaza Strip. He said much of the problem stemmed from the fact that the PLO had never run a country before, with all its

minute details of administration. "I think we are making some headway there," Mr. Clinton said. "I don't want to minimize the difficulties but I don't expect them to be so great as to derail what we are doing." In a related development, the White House said Mr. Clinton adviser Mack McLarty visited Saudi Arabia this week and would report to the president on discussions with King Fahd. Mr. McLarty was accompanied by Security Council senior director Martin Indyk. Syria's state-run newspapers Saturday warned that Israel's stand on the occupied Golan Heights and its military actions in South Lebanon could wreck the peace talks. The newspaper and other dailies said that remarks by Israel's chief of staff, General Ehud Barak, Wednesday that the Jewish state should keep the strategic Golan even if peace is achieved with Syria undermined the U.S.-sponsored peace process.

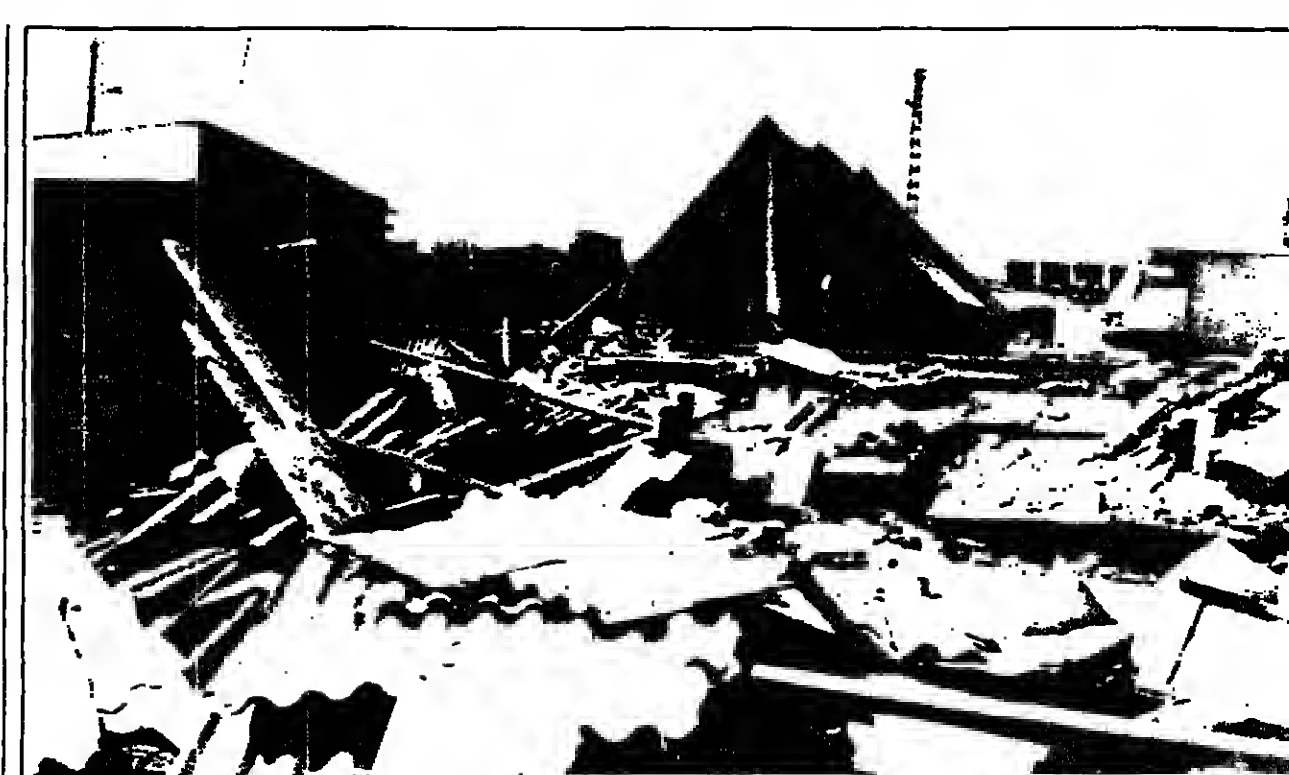
Algerian parties meet today

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Algeria's military-backed government and five of the eight legal opposition parties will sit down Sunday for a fresh round of talks aimed at ending a guerrilla war which has killed 15,000 people in less than three years. President Liamine Zeroual failed to invite the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), which has spearheaded the uprising against the military-backed regime. FIS deputy leader Ali Belhadj, filling in for the group's two senior jailed leaders, has rejected the idea of taking part in talks that do not also include other armed Islamic groups. "Muslims do not condemn legitimate (armed) resistance as an alternative to so-called dialogue with the junta," he said in a letter to the president last month. Any attempt to "isolate the armed branch (of the Islamic opposition) is in vain," he wrote. Three previous rounds of talks broke down over the issue of whether to legalise the FIS, outlawed since April 1992 for threatening national security. Mr. Zeroual, in a radio and television address late Friday, urged Algerians to "meet the challenge of national reconciliation." Invitations to the talks were accepted by the Movement for Islamic Society, the Movement for an Islamic Renaissance, the Movement for Democracy in Algeria, and the Algerian Renewal Party. The former sole ruling party, the National Liberation Front, has also agreed to attend. But the Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD) and Ettahaddi Movement of former communists, declined. Both said the meeting could open the way to formation of an Islamic government, an idea they bitterly oppose. In a letter to the president published a week ago, RCD General Secretary Said Sadi noted that talks "held for two years by the predecessors of Mr. Zeroual produced nothing."

YSP unlikely to be in Yemeni cabinet

SANAA (R) — The Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), whose leaders' attempt to set up a breakaway southern state was crushed last month in a civil war, is unlikely to be included in a new Yemeni government, political sources said on Saturday. Yemen's two other main parties, allies against the breakaway state in the war, are holding intensive consultations over a new cabinet which is expected to be announced by the end of the month, the sources said. Some of the YSP's members opposed the secession bid, which was led by party leader Ali Salem Al Beidh. The present Yemeni cabinet officially includes four YSP members. "For sure the YSP will not join the new cabinet," one source said. "The post-war stage needs a harmonious government and political decisions which the GPC and Islah can offer." The General People's Congress (GPC), led by Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh, and the Islamist Islah Party of Parliamentary Speaker Sheikh Abdullah

Ben Hussein Al Ahmar were partners with the YSP in a pre-war coalition government. The coalition, formed after general elections in 1993, was headed by Haidar Abu Bakr Al Attas of the YSP but was paralysed by the political differences between GPC and YSP which led to the outbreak of civil war on May 4. But some sources said it was possible some YSP members could join the new cabinet, to be formed mainly of technocrats, in a personal capacity but not as YSP representatives. The formation of a new cabinet was expected shortly after Mr. Saleh's forces won the war on July 7 by capturing Aden, the self-declared capital of the breakaway southern Yemeni state announced by Mr. Beidh on May 21. But the new cabinet was delayed pending a compromise between the GPC and Islah over amendments to the constitution which, if passed by parliament, will strengthen Mr. Saleh's position, the sources said.



ALGERIAN QUAKE: An Algerian man walks by a tent erected in the middle of the debris of houses following a tremor that devastated a large part of northwestern

Algeria before dawn Thursday. The provided death toll from the quake rose to 171, the Interior Ministry announced Saturday (see page 12) (AFP photo)

PLA unit chief thanks King for prompt response to appeal

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Army (PLA) commander in Jordan, Brigadier Mohammad Qudsieh on Saturday thanked His Majesty King Hussein for his quick response to help the PLA's Badre Brigade after it was told to put its men on leave without pay until further notice. "His Majesty reacted promptly to our request which he has always done. He has never left us at bay," Brig. Qudsieh said. King Hussein, responding to a request made to him by Brig. Qudsieh, instructed Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali to pay the salaries and maintain the Badre Brigade in Jordan. More than 2,200 members of the Jordanian-trained Badre Brigade, which initially numbered 3,300, are still in Jordan. They are unlikely to be transferred to the Palestine National Authority (PNA) enclaves in Jericho and Gaza as had been initially envisioned. Some 1,100 are

serving in the various branches of the Palestinian security forces in Gaza. Brig. Qudsieh said his appeal to the King came after PNA President Yasser Arafat informed him that 1743 members of the brigade in Jordan could be retired, that an additional 246 should be put on an open-ended vacation without pay and that all additional salaries should be frozen for the moment. The salaries for the PLA which are normally paid by the PLO "were consistently late," according to a member of the Brigade's finance department. The salaries for the PLA members for the month of June were the last to be paid to the servicemen by the PLO on Aug. 18. "The problem was not only salaries which did come on time; it was the nkpoch which was not being taken care of," Brig. Qudsieh said. In his instructions to Prime Minister Majali, the King asked that all "operational expenses" of the Badre Brigade be paid by the government.

"A cash-strapped PLA is barely making its ends meet in the self-rule areas and they don't have any money left over for us," said the member of the unit's finance department. However, most members of the brigade who spoke to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity said that issues of politics and loyalty were the primary reasons behind Brig. Qudsieh's appeal to the King. A few appeared not to agree with Brig Qudsieh's decision to appeal to the King. "Even if we are not happy with the status quo, this was a bad move at a time when Palestinian-Jordanian relations are strained," said one of them. But the history of ties between the Badre Brigade and Jordan are older than a few months of delayed pay. The first units of the PLA were founded in Gaza and Jordan in the 1950s. After 1970, several units of the PLA remained in Jordan and continued training as a Palestinian force against Israel in the Khaw training

camp 40 kilometres north of Amman. Most of the younger Palestinian recruits in the Badre Brigade have neither the ideological background nor the revolutionary spirit their predecessors had. Unlike their predecessors they were "looking for a job" and did not necessarily have any political inclinations when joining the PLA. These young men have also known no other home than Jordan. Since the PLA members are almost exclusively drawn up from 1948 refugees, most do not feel that the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords or the Israeli-Jordanian agreement has addressed their plight, be it the right of return or compensation as guaranteed by U.N. Resolution 194. Many, drawn from poor homes in refugee camps, want to "move up" and "move out of their economic misery." Three months after their colleagues were deployed in Gaza and Jericho,

PLO team opens talks here today on 'outstanding issues'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A senior-level Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) delegation opens talks here today with Jordanian officials on outstanding issues and coordination, officials from both sides said yesterday. Information Minister Jawad Al Anani said Jordan was expecting answers from the delegation of some of the issues that the Kingdom had raised in previous contacts. "In addition to political and economic issues, the talks will cover sectoral coordination between Jordan and the Palestinians," Dr. Anani said, adding that issues related to health, education and legislative matters would be among the topics to be discussed. Asked whether the political atmosphere was conducive for such detailed talks on coordination, given the obvious strain in ties, Dr. Anani said: "It is not a matter of the atmosphere being conducive. Issues are there and they won't just go away, they have to be addressed."

Under the Sept. 13 autonomy accord with Israel and a subsequent agreement reached in Cairo in May, the PLO is expected to take control of some administrative sectors of the West Bank starting with education next week. His Majesty King Hussein has said that Jordan stood ready to offer whatever help

it could extend to the Palestinians in the occupied territories and has welcomed all opportunities for dialogue and discussions with the PLO leadership. "We have to start somewhere and perhaps this is the best time to start," Dr. Anani said. A Palestinian source said: "We hope to discuss all outstanding issues with Jordan, and hopefully pave the way for better coordination and cooperation in all spheres." Jordan has repeatedly said that the PLO was apathetic to coordinating with the Kingdom, starting with the secret negotiations that led to the autonomy accord with Israel. In reply to a question on Jordan's understanding of the status of an economic accord the Kingdom signed with the PLO in January and a subsequent document drafted in May on modalities of the January accord, Dr. Anani said Jordan had sought clarifications from the PLO. "We hope to find out tomorrow" what their clarifications are, Dr. Anani said. "It is too early to comment."

Arafat tries to win funding in Geneva

GENEVA (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks in Geneva on Saturday with the president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) in a bid to win funding for Palestinian self-rule. He left the Gaza Strip earlier the same day and had been expected to stopover in Alexandria, Egypt, to take part in a tour which will also include a visit to Tunis for talks with the PLO's National Council (PNC) members. Mr. Arafat met UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan, who is in Switzerland on a private visit, Palestinian officials here said. The PLO chairman was also expected to discuss funding with U.N. officials. The Palestinians have repeatedly complained about the reluctance of donor countries to put up the funds pledged for Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Arafat's planned visit to Tunis-based PNC members comes after Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres gave the green light on Friday for the PNC to convene in the Gaza Strip. The PLO leader is under pressure from Israel to call a meeting of the PNC and fulfill pledges to amend the PLO Charter by scrapping articles calling for the destruction of Israel (see page 2).

Arafat under strong Israeli pressure to amend PLO charter

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat is under an ultimatum by Israel that there would not be any redeployment of Israeli forces or Palestinian elections in the occupied territories before the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) charter is amended to remove clauses calling for the destruction of the Jewish state, PLO sources said Saturday.

The ultimatum was served by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in meetings with Mr. Arafat in Gaza on Friday and with chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath in Alexandria, Egypt, on Wednesday, the sources said.

"There was no mistaking the message from Peres," said one source. "He said clearly that the Israeli government insisted on the amendments before it would order any redeployment of its forces in the West Bank and make way for Palestinian elections to a self-rule council."

Mr. Arafat, in a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Mr. Peres in Paris in June, promised that he would convene the Palestine National Council (PNC), the only Palestinian body authorised to amend the charter, in the Gaza Strip soon.

However, the PLO chairman, under fire from many hardline and independent members of the 484-seat council, is finding it difficult to raise quorum for the meeting, which will be the first since 1988 when it met in Algeria and proclaimed the State of Palestine.

Many Amman-based PNC members, affiliated with the various PLO factions as well as independents, have mounted a strong campaign to deny Mr. Arafat a quorum

for the proposed meeting in Gaza.

PNC members representing factions such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and other hardliners based in Syria oppose the entire autonomy deal and would have nothing to do with any move to amend the 1964 PLO charter.

The two main reasons publicly cited for the rejection of independent members of a PNC session are that no amendments to the charter could be made as long as Israeli troops remain in the territories and that the Jewish state occupied in the 1967 war and that the council should not meet in the Gaza Strip under the shadow of occupation.

Many of the independent PNC members are also opposed to the self-rule agreement. It was not clear how many members of the council would actually attend a meeting if convened in Gaza, but activists said it would definitely be below quorum under the present setup of the council.

However, the rejectionists fear that Mr. Arafat might resort to "illegitimate means" to gather quorum for a PNC session in Gaza by unilaterally filling 180 vacant seats in the council by his loyalists in the West Bank and Gaza.

"This will be totally illegal since the PNC statute clearly states that filling vacant seats could be done only at a session attended by two-thirds of the serving members of the council," said a leading Palestinian activist.

"If Mr. Arafat goes ahead and appoints the 180, then that would mean a delegitimation of the Palestine National Council," said the activist, who preferred

anonymity. "But we will fight against any such move and expose the illegality of such appointments."

Mr. Arafat was clearly referring to the problems he faces to convene the meeting and endorse amendments to the charter when he said at a joint press conference with Mr. Peres in Gaza on Friday that "I do not have the right to decide... it is not my right... it is against democracy... that is the business of the PNC... you have to respect our democracy."

Mr. Peres appeared to deny Mr. Arafat an avenue of excuse to have his own way in convening the council with or without its members. He said he told the PLO chairman that "we shall not object to having the PNC meet in Gaza and invite all its members to participate in the meeting."

That public statement closed the door against a possible Arafat argument that he has no choice but to appoint members of the West Bank and Gaza to fill the vacant seats because many of the members living outside are "blacklisted" by Israel and would not be allowed to travel to the occupied territories to attend the meeting.

"We expect a stepped-up campaign by Arafat to convince many independents to attend the meeting," said a member of a hardline PLO faction. "The obvious approach would be that you are free to say and suggest what you want and seek support in the council, and no one will object," he said.

"But it is not going to work this time," he said. "We have had more than enough experience dealing with Arafat and the PNC. Speeches and addresses go down very well, but when it comes to voting on any resolution, Arafat and his camp will have their way at the end of the day."



EX-DETAINEES WELCOMED: A youth waves a Palestinian flag cheering Palestinian prisoners arriving at the self-rule Jericho area after being released from Israeli jails late Friday. Some 250 Palestinian prisoners were released by the Israeli army on Friday (AFP photo)

Wanted southerner arrested in Sanaa

SANAA (AP) — One of the southerners sought on treason charges stemming from Yemen's nine-week civil war was seized Friday while boarding a plane to flee the country, security and aviation officials said.

Ahmad Oheid Ben Dagher, a prominent member of the Yemen Socialist Party, and 10 aides were seized at the international airport, according to the officials, who spoke on condition they not be named.

Mr. Dagher was carrying a forged passport, they said.

The officials said the arrests occurred early Friday, and led to the delay of some flights. But they would not say where Mr. Dagher had been headed.

Mr. Dagher is one of 16 people, led by Yemen's former vice president, Ali Salem Al Beidh, whom the northern-based government wants to try on charges of high treason for announcing the south's secession soon after the north-south civil war erupted May 4.

The government accuses the group of triggering the war which caused thousands of casualties. It considers Beidh and his lieutenants to be war criminals.

The conflict ended July 7 when northern forces seized the southern stronghold of Aden on the Gulf of Aden.

Most of the wanted men have sought refuge in neighbouring countries.

It was not known why Mr. Dagher was in Sanaa. In addition to being a top Socialist Party member, he also was an elected member of parliament.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh had declared a general amnesty for at least 10,000 subordinates from military and civilian ranks who fled with the leaders. But the amnesty, which expired Aug. 15, did not include Mr. Beidh and the 15 others.

Sanaa is pressing the neighbouring governments to extradite these men for trial, but officials have said that they may also be tried in absentia.

NEWS IN BRIEF

UAE in crackdown on video pirates

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has ordered video and audio cassette shops to remove all pirated material by the end of August, under new laws to protect copyrights, newspapers said. Authorities said they would start inspections to ensure all shops respect an Aug. 31 deadline to comply with the new laws drafted last year under pressure from the United States.

"There will be no extension of the deadline," newspapers quoted the information ministry's censorship chief, Abdul Aziz Al Madfa, as saying. "All fake material will be destroyed and the shops will bear the losses." The United States has been pressing the UAE and other Gulf states to enforce legislation to protect copyrights, trade mark and intellectual property. The drive followed complaints from U.S. companies that they were losing nearly \$500 million a year due to piracy in the Gulf. Several Gulf states have yielded to the pressure but have yet to fully enforce the protection laws.

"We advise all video and cassette shops to adhere to the new regulations because the UAE has international commitments and trade relations with many countries," Mr. Madfa said. "Any delays in the implementation of the new laws will harm those relations and the UAE's image. Hundreds of video and audio cassette shops operate in the UAE most of them run by Indians, Pakistanis and other Asians. Authorities have already launched a crackdown on pornography and closed several video houses."

McLarty makes quick trip to S. Arabia

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House Counselor Mack McLarty carried a letter from President Bill Clinton to King Fahd of Saudi Arabia this week and held discussions concerning a range of Middle East issues, a White House official said Friday. Mr. McLarty, a close friend of the president's, stepped down recently as White House chief of staff. A White House official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said Mr. Clinton had been hoping for a face-to-face meeting with King Fahd and sent Mr. McLarty when that could not be quickly arranged. The discussions included an exchange of views on the Middle East peace process, the situation in the Gulf and the situation in Yemen, the official said. Mr. McLarty returned to the capital Friday afternoon, the official said. He was accompanied on his trip by Assistant Secretary of State Robert Pelletreau and Martin Indyk, senior director of the National Security Council.

Cyprus to boost ties with Lebanon

NICOSIA (AFP) — Cyprus plans to boost its economic and political ties with Lebanon, Foreign Minister Alekos Michaelides said Friday, ahead of his first official visit to Beirut. "We will explore the means to get closer in all fields: political and economic," he told AFP. Cyprus wanted to play its role in "building a prosperous" Middle East. "Lebanon has shown high business acumen and can make a significant contribution," he added ahead of the visit starting on Sunday. Mr. Michaelides recalled that during the 1975-1990 civil war in Lebanon, thousands of Lebanese escaped to Cyprus and "were welcomed as friends and brothers." Their "presence and business activities injected a significant contribution when Cyprus's economy was reeling after the invasion of northern Cyprus by the Turkish army in 1974, he explained.

Mr. Michaelides said that Cyprus would appoint a non-resident ambassador to Lebanon, as the island has daily air links and is only 25 minutes flying time from Beirut. Lebanon has had an embassy in Nicosia since 1960 when the country gained its independence from Britain. The trade balance is largely in favor of Cyprus, which export to Lebanon \$100 million worth of light manufactured products and food per year but imports only \$10 million worth of Lebanese goods. Nearly 50,000 Lebanese visit the holiday island each year.

Lebanon's top-ranking Maronite cleric dies

BEIRUT (AP) — Lebanon's highest-ranking Maronite Catholic cleric, Cardinal Antonios Bninos Khreish, has died of old age, the sect's patriarchate announced Saturday. He was 87.

Khreish was the only cleric with a Vatican-bestowed cardinal's rank among the one million-strong Maronite community, Lebanon's largest Christian sect.

"Cardinal Khreish passed away at 7 p.m. (1600 GMT) Friday after a long battle with illness," a brief patriarchal communique said.

Khreish reigned as patriarch of Antioch and the entire Orient during the early years of Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, in which the majority Muslims rebelled against the Maronite's dominance of power.

After the war, power was reapportioned on an equal basis between Muslims and Christians under an Arab League-brokered accord that ended the conflict.

Khreish, born in 1907, began his clerical career in 1936 and became an acting bishop of the Maronite community in Haifa in pre-1948 Palestine.

He then served as a bishop in the northern Syrian port city of Tartous in 1950 and then moved to the same post in Sidon, South Lebanon, before he was elected Maronite Patriarch in 1975.

He resigned 10 years later because of failing health and was made a cardinal by the Vatican.

Khreish, who hailed from the village of Idn Sagr in South Lebanon, spent his last days in Beirut, the traditional hilltop seat of Maronite patriarchs, northeast of Beirut.

When Khreish resigned, Archbishop Nasrallah Steir was elected patriarch. He still heads the sect that has paid allegiance to the Pope of Rome since the 15th century.

The Maronites emigrated from central Syria five centuries ago to escape persecution. They entrenched themselves in a string of remote mountain monasteries, establishing a Christian heartland.

Russia affirms support for Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin's envoy reaffirmed Russia's commitment to Middle East peace efforts on Saturday and Lebanon's foreign minister said Moscow can play an active role in reviving the stalled talks.

Special emissary Viktor Posovalyuk made the comments after separate meetings with President Elias Hrawi and Foreign Minister Fares Bouez on the first leg of a Middle East tour to rebuild Moscow's influence in the region.

Mr. Posovalyuk, who directs Middle East relations in Russia's Foreign Ministry, delivered a message from Mr. Yeltsin on the Arab-Israeli peace talks to Hrawi at the presidential palace in suburban Baabda.

Details of the message were not divulged.

Later, he met with Mr. Bouez at the foreign minister's residence in the mountain town of Baaloun, northeast of Beirut.

Those talks covered prospects for widening political and economic cooperation between the two countries.

"I was very pleased that the minister spoke about the necessity of Russia returning to the Middle East arena as a superpower," Mr. Posovalyuk told reporters in Arabic.

Russia signed an economic cooperation pact with Lebanon last week.

Mr. Posovalyuk said Moscow "wishes that Lebanon regains its position as a major commercial and financial centre in the Middle East and that's what's happening now."

His visit also touched on an expected visit by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri to Moscow. The date has yet to be set.

Russia co-sponsors the Middle East peace process with the United States, but has been very much the junior partner.

The Russian envoy reaffirmed Russia's commitment to see the talks succeed and stressed: "Russia's role should not be minimized."

Mr. Bouez told reporters that "that Russian leadership's knowledge of the Middle East makes it qualified to play a major role."

He said Russia had special historic relations with Arab countries of the region and Moscow's "experience" regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict "should be taken into consideration and utilized."

Mr. Posovalyuk arrived in Beirut Friday and was expected to leave later Saturday by land for Damascus for talks with Syrian officials.

He was scheduled to stop in the Bekaa Valley town of Zahle for meetings with Christian religious leaders. After Syria, Mr. Posovalyuk was slated to visit Jordan and Israel.

He began his Middle East tour in Beirut, a far cry from similar shuffles by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher who has skipped Lebanon on four peace missions since May.

Talks on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks have been stalled since February despite U.S. efforts to revive them.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation signed a peace accord with Israel in September and Jordan formally ended hostilities with it last month.

Scientists look inside mummy for clues into ancient ways

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hospital workers wheeled the little Egyptian man in for computerised X-rays Friday, giving scientists a detailed look inside a 2,200-year-old mummy.

"We're looking at the pinnacle of 20th century technology, looking at the pinnacle of (ancient) Egyptian technology," said Smithsonian Institution anthropologist David R. Hunt.

The sophisticated X-rays will allow the scientists to create a three-dimensional image of the mummy, including a hologram, for display at an exhibit being developed for the National Museum of Natural History.

"He's a couple years older than our average patient," quipped Dr. Wayne Olan of George Washington University Hospital. Reports and television crews jammed the corridors for the event, amusing hospital staff and confusing real patients.

Because nobody knows the real name of the mummy, hospital workers dubbed him the "Little Egyptian Man." The Smithsonian staff calls him Minister Cox, after the

U.S. ambassador to Turkey who donated the mummy to the museum in 1886.

Minister Cox — the mummy, not the diplomat — died sometime between 200 B.C. and 150 B.C., aged 40 to 45, apparently of natural causes, Dr. Olan said. There was no immediate evidence of disease or injury.

Dr. Olan said he was surprised at how well the bones were preserved and complicated the sophistication of the Egyptians in preserving bodies.

"The bone structure is very similar to what we see in our patients today," Dr. Olan said. In life, Minister Cox was slightly shorter and lighter than the average male of today but slightly larger than most people of the time, Dr. Hunt and Dr. Olan said.

The mummy came from Luxor but little else is known about it. "If there's any curse, it has been lost," Dr. Hunt said.

He was probably wealthy, and was preserved carefully in a large, decorated sarcophagus. That sort of wrapping and care was reserved for royalty and the rich, Dr. Hunt said.

Hunt said. While the religion of the day required everyone's body to be preserved, poor people were merely "pickled," he explained.

Dr. Olan said the only damage to the body is a broken bone in the upper right part of the face behind the nose.

That allowed the brain to be removed, Dr. Hunt explained. The brain and intestines of mummies were removed to help ensure preservation.

Brains were thought unnecessary, with intelligence and the body's essence believed to reside in the heart, Dr. Hunt said.

The heart stayed with the mummy, so that when the spirit arrived in the afterlife the heart could be weighed. Bad deeds were believed to create a heavy heart.

Using the computerised X-rays allows researchers to study details of the mummy without destroying it.

"Mummies aren't as common as you might think," Dr. Hunt said. There used to be a lot of them, but in the 19th century thousands were burned for firewood.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel. 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	News in French
18:30	News in Arabic
19:00	Step By Step
20:30	Quantum Leap
21:00	News in English
22:30	Snow River
PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:55	(Sunrise) Duha
12:30	Dhuhr
16:19	Asr
19:20	Maghreb
20:43	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweidieh, Tel. 840740	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church, Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church, Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church, Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation, Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church, Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Bassim Qadumi	649633
Dr. Yusef Naser	751144
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim	620115
Dr. Yusef Al Faghi	756988
First pharmacy	661912
Perdows pharmacy	783636
Al Asma pharmacy	637053
Natirouth pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shuieini pharmacy	637660
Natirouth pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Al Omani	27302
Alquds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Mishaq Hijawi	981217
Khalifeh pharmacy	985417
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Euphrasian Church Tel. 771751	Armenian International Church Tel. 652526
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 664195
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932	Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Normal summer weather conditions will prevail with winds north-westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	18 / 32
Agaba	26 / 38
Dacra	17 / 33
Jordan Valley	24 / 39
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Agaba 37 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Agaba 26 per cent.	

Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777	Fire Brigade 671701
Blood Bank 775121	University Hospital 645845
Highway Police 843402	Al-Muhsen Hospital 667227/7
Traffic Police 696590	The Islamic, Adabi 666127/5
Public Security Department 63021	Al-Ahli, Adabi 6641646
Hotel Complaints 603800	Italian, Al-Muhajir 777101/3
Price Complaints 661176	Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Water and Sewerage 697467	Army, Marka 891611/5
Complaints 787111	Queen Alla Hospital 602240/30
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121	Amal Hospital 674155
Overseas Calls 010230	ZARQA:
Central Amman Telephone 610230	Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Repairs 623101	Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101	Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Jordan Television 774111	Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)99990
Radio Jordan 774111	Princess Beama Hospital (02)25553
Water Authority 680100	Gresh Catholic Hospital (02)27275
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615	Rn Al Nafies Hospital (02)47100
Electric Power Company 636381	Princess Haya Hospital (02)314111
RJ Flight Information 08-53200	
Queen Alla Int. Airport 08-53200	
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32	Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann. 644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. 642441/2	Jabal Amman Maternity 622562
Mahbas, J. Amman 636140	

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
05:30	Bangkok (RJ)
06:15	Agaba (RJ)
07:00	Damascus (RJ)
07:30	Jeddah (RJ)
08:00	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
08:15	Larnaca (RJ)
08:30	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
11:00	Beirut (RJ)
14:30	New York (add) (RJ)
18:15	Madrid (RJ)
18:25	London (RJ)
18:55	Istanbul (RJ)
19:00	Brussels, Geneva (RJ)
19:25	Paris (RJ)
19:35	Athens (RJ)
19:45	Frankfurt (RJ)
20:05	Riyadh (RJ)
20:30	Rhodes (add) (RJ)
21:00	Rome (add) (RJ)
01:20	Cairo (RJ)
03:30	Rome (add) (RJ)
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.	
06:14	Anatolia (TK)
13:30	Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
14:25	Moscow (SU)
19:05	Larnaca (CY)
20:20	Cairo (MS)
21:15	Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
06:00	Agaba (RJ)
06:30	Madrid (add) (RJ)
06:45	Beirut (RJ)
07:00	Rome (RJ)
12:00	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
12:30	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:40	Istanbul (RJ)
13:00	Athens (RJ)
14:30	Rhodes (add) (RJ)
16:30	Agaba, Cairo (RJ)
21:05	Riyadh (RJ)
21:30	Jeddah (RJ)
22:25	New Delhi (RJ)
23:00	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
23:40	Bangkok (RJ)
23:15	Damascus (RJ)
23:15	Singapore, Jakarta (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
06:15	Anatolia (TK)
07:20	Rome (AZ)
14:30	Doha, Muscat (GF)
14:05	Moscow (SU)
19:55	Moscow (SU)
20:20	Larnaca (CY)
21:15	Cairo (MS)
02:25	Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	5:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower prices in fils per kg	
Apple	650 / 650
Banana	600 / 600
Banana (Mukammal)	600 / 600
Cabbage	120 / 120
Carrot	250 / 150
Cauliflower	200 / 150
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 180
Cucumbers (small)	370 / 270
Eggplant	180 / 180
Fig	450 / 450
Grape	350 / 350
Grape (small)	350 / 350
Lebanese	300 / 300
Marrow (large)	200 / 180
Marrow (small)	420 / 300
Mulakhiah	140 / 140
Okra	1100 / 800
Orange	300 / 300
Onion (dry)	270 / 200
Plum	700 / 500
Sweet Melon	180 / 180
Pepper (hot)	250 / 180
Pepper (sweet)	280 / 180
Potato	320 / 280
Peaches	900 / 600
Tomato	120 / 70
String beans	700 / 400
Watermelon	70 / 70

NEWS IN BRIEF

King receives cables

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received cables of good wishes on the holy occasion of Prophet Muhammad's birthday. The cables came from King Hassan of Morocco, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, President of Yemen AE Abdullah Saleh, Tunisian President Zain Al Abidin Ben Ali, the Emir of Qatar Sheikh Khalifah Ben Ahmad Al Thani, United Arab Emirates President Yasser Arafat, and Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Qayoum as well as the Commander of the Palestine Liberation Forces in Jordan Brigadier General Mohammad Qudsieh.

Karak opens first AYF festival

KARAK (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Karak Governor Khalaf Mahasneh Saturday inaugurated the first cultural folklore festival organised by the Arab Youth Forum. Speakers at the opening ceremony outlined the aim of the festival, noting the various cultural activities conducted by the Arab Youth Forum. The speakers included Ali Karaki, the Karak Mayor.

Qatari news agency chief arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — Qatari News Agency Director General Ahmad Hummar arrived in Amman Saturday on an official visit to Jordan. Mr. Hummar, who was met by the director of the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Abdullah Etoum, is expected to discuss cooperation between the Jordanian and Qatari national news agencies in exchanges of news materials and training of personnel.

Cement factory management meeting to open

AMMAN (Petra) — Forty delegates representing five Arab countries including Jordan will gather at Amra hotel today to discuss management of cement factory projects in the Arab World. The participants in the four-day meeting, who are all directors of cement factories in Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Egypt, and Syria, will discuss financial and administrative management and quality control, among other issues, according to the Institute of Public Administration which is organising the meeting in cooperation with the Arab Federation of Cement and Building Materials. Institute Director General Zuhair Kayed said Saturday that the meeting, the second of its kind to be organised in cooperation with the federation, is designed to upgrade the factory directors' knowledge in the management of their businesses. He said attention will also be centred on ways to cater to the international quality standards of cement products. Federation Secretary General Ahmad Rousan and Dr. Kayed will deliver addresses to the opening session.

PLA unit chief thanks King.

(Continued from page 1)

stories filtering back to Jordan were of a security force that was forced to depend on handouts from the people for their daily bread.

"This, says one PLA member who joined in the 1990s, 'has brought great disillusionment' among the troops. 'Now many would rather go home to Jordan than go to Gaza or Jericho and beg.'"

Brig. Qudsieh's appeal to King Hussein to "take care of the Bader Brigade" came like an answer to the prayers of many of the brigade's members.

"If Arafat does not want us we will stay here and serve here with the King as our leader," said a young recruit who joined the unit in 1993.

Far away from the battlefield and even further away from being assigned the task of building a nation, many of the Bader Brigade members appear content to remain in Jordan.

Mr. Arafat, according to some high-ranking PLA officials in Jordan, was always "wary" of the "Jordanianisation" of the brigade. All of the PLA's headquarters are decked with large photographs of King Hussein next to the picture of Mr. Arafat.

Mr. Arafat consciously chose older Bader Brigade members who had been "with him in Beirut" when he sent the first batches of the PLA members to Gaza and Jericho. Bader forces were stationed almost exclusively

in Gaza — "as far away from Jordan as possible," as one lieutenant put it.

The Associated Press adds: The voice of Palestine radio, Mr. Arafat's mouthpiece, denounced the PLO chairman had ordered the unit's disbandment or refused to pay its salaries.

But in an interview Saturday with the Associated Press, Brig. Qudsieh said Mr. Arafat had sent his office director, Ghazi Mohanna, and Jawad Ghusseini, head of the Palestine National Fund, to Jordan with orders to disband the unit.

Brig. Qudsieh said he protested the move, but Mr. Arafat sent him a formal letter confirming his orders.

The army official said all PLA units were asked to submit lists of their members for Israeli permission to enter the self-rule areas with the sole exception of the Bader Brigade. After the 500 left for the territories in May, no officer from this unit was asked to prepare for deployment there.

"Despite all my appeals, Arafat insisted on disbanding the unit," he said. "I had no choice but to appeal to His Majesty to resolve our plight."

In an interview with Jordan radio, Brig. Qudsieh read out what he said was Mr. Arafat's letter to him to prove his case. The letter, according to Brig. Qudsieh, said: "An open leave should be given to all soldiers."

PLO team opens talks today

(Continued from page 1)

meeting between King Hussein and Mr. Arafat.

Farouk Kadoumi, head of the political section of the PLO, said during a recent visit to Jordan that he was "not satisfied" with the level of Jordan-PLO coordination, but did not say who was to be blamed for the lack of coordination.

On the economic side, Ahmad Qouriea, head of the economic department of the PLO, criticised the Kingdom for signing a trade accord with Israel last week. Under that accord, Israel permitted Jordanian exports worth \$30 million to the West Bank this year.

According to Mr. Qouriea, Jordan was seeking to "bypass" the Palestinian authority by signing the agreement. Jordanian officials have made no public response to the charge. But they say in private that the accord was self-explanatory in that it involves the Jordanian and Palestinian private sectors which have to make the necessary arrangements

in coordination with the PNA.

In today's talks, the delegation, whose visit to Jordan was decided upon by a meeting of the PNA last week, will also raise the issue of Palestinian identity documents permitted under the self-rule accord with Israel.

The delegation that will open talks here today comprises mostly of PNA members. They include:

- Yasser Abed Rabbo, minister of information and culture;
- Yasser Amr, minister of labour;
- Mohammad Nashashibi, minister of finance;
- Riyad Zannoun, minister of health;
- Freih Ahn Meidan, minister of justice;
- Abdul Hafiz Ashhab, minister of communications; and
- Faisal Hussein, minister without portfolio.

Jamil Tariq, a close Arafat confidant who is not a member of the PNA, will also be a member of the team.

Naval blockade of Aqaba to end Thursday

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A U.S.-led naval force which has been intercepting all Jordan-bound ships since August 1990 will move away from the mouth of the Gulf of Aqaba at noon Thursday when a land-based verification regime is expected to take position at Aqaba to observe the Kingdom's adherence to the international sanctions against Iraq.

Final approval has been given to the arrangement under which the London-based Lloyds Register would maintain a presence at Aqaba with an eight-member team which would work in coordination with Jordanian ports and customs authorities to observe that no Iraq-bound cargo passes through the port in violation of the sanctions, imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The Ports Corporation and Jordan Shipping Agents Association (JASAA), in a joint circular to all shipping agents and other concerned parties, said Saturday that they were "glad to announce that the naval blockade of Aqaba will end as of Thursday."

"It has been officially understood that the offshore inspections by multinational interception forces at the entrance of the Gulf of Aqaba will cease as of noon Thursday, Aug. 25, 1994," said the circular, signed by Port Corporation Director-General Duraid Mahasneh and JASAA Chairman Tawfiq Kavar.

The circular said that the Lloyds Register, described as an international non-profit organisation which monitors shipping, would take over "the observation of all cargo as of that date, and they will conduct onshore inspection of cargo inside the port of Aqaba... in a manner that will not interfere with the normal procedures of clearing cargo from the port."

The cost of the inspection will be paid for by Jordan, through a levy from Jordanian importers. The money will be paid into an escrow account controlled by the United Nations, and Jordan is expected to claim the amount from a U.N. commission in charge of paying compensation for losses incurred as a result of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent crisis.

The details of the observation procedures and related



Duraid Mahasneh



Tawfiq Kavar

charges are expected to be announced at a press conference scheduled to be held in Aqaba on Wednesday.

Mr. Mahasneh, Mr. Kavar and Lloyds Register representatives will address the press conference.

The naval enforcers of the sanctions against Iraq have intercepted more than 20,000 ships since they took up position in August 1990.

Several hundred of the vessels were refused entry while others were allowed in or permitted entry after they were diverted to get rid of "suspect" cargo or rearrange

cargo for accessibility for inspection.

The circular noted that because of the cargo accessibility requirements of the enforcers, ships were unable to take in full-capacity cargo and were deprived of up to 20 per cent of cargo space.

This, coupled with the delays posed by the inspection, prompted shipowners to add extra freights of up to \$1,000 per 20-foot container, \$500 per 20-foot containers and \$15 per tonne of loose cargo. However, the positioning of Lloyds surveyors is not

expected to dramatically bring down the freight rates if one is to compare today's costs, shipping sources said. They said shipowners had gradually reduced the rates in the past few months in the wake of reports that the land-based verification regime was agreed upon in principle.

Washington, which leads the international effort to punish Iraq, agreed to the arrangement in April. Since then only a handful of ships were intercepted or diverted. As a rule, no shipping agent would report any such interceptions since the agreement was reached.

One of the best expectations of shipping circles is the possible return of some of the 24-plus shipping lines which stopped sailing to Aqaba as a result of the difficulties and problems posed by the offshore inspections.

Another marked change will be the elimination of the delays and the rescheduling of sailings to Aqaba. With the offshore inspections in place, shipowners had to ensure that Aqaba would be the last port of call for their vessels to avoid delays.

Furthermore, they also had to make room in their schedules for possible diversion of

the ships to neighbouring ports to unload or rearrange cargo.

Saturday's circular paid tribute to the efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and their personal intervention to bring about the change at Aqaba.

It described the Lloyds Register presence as a temporary arrangement and said that the Ports Corporation "would exert all efforts to eliminate all kinds of inspections and observations at Aqaba" by non-Jordanians.

It also expressed hope for an early end to the "unjust embargo imposed on the people of Iraq by the United Nations."

Shipping circles do not expect any dramatic rise in the volume of Iraq-bound cargo coming in through Aqaba as a result of the new arrangement.

"For a marked improvement in the situation, there has to be an easing if not an outright lifting of the sanctions against Iraq," said a leading shipping agent.

Mayor reviews strategies at international conference

AMMAN (Petra) — In New York Amman Mayor Mandouh Abbadi told an international conference of heads of municipal councils that during the Gulf War Amman's population was inflated by 10 per cent in two months because of the forced migration of Jordanians and Palestinians from the Gulf states, largely from Kuwait.

The influx of hundreds of thousands of people to the capital led to the emergence of random population settlements around the city and within its boundaries, resulting in an increase in the volume of poverty in Jordan, said Dr. Abbadi.

Amman municipality, he said, was trying to find solutions to the housing problems by reorganising allotment plans for the construction of housing units, facilitating economic activities for the needy and easing conditions for people to set up handicraft workshops to earn a living.

The municipality has been undertaking these measures in cooperation with the ministry of social development, the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development and other social and voluntary institutions, and municipalities, some of which are helping to rehabilitate the needy and offer them vocational

training in different trades, according to Dr. Abbadi.

The international conference, which was attended by 95 mayors from around the globe, ended its two-day deliberations.

Conference sources said that a final statement summing up the discussions and offering recommendations and proposals will be regarded as a working paper that will be submitted to International Social Conference due to be held in Copenhagen in March 1995, and the U.N. Summit on Population Settlement (Habitat) which is scheduled to be held in Istanbul in 1996.

Iran starts paying phosphate, fertiliser debts to Kingdom

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — As a result of talks conducted in Tehran last week by a Jordanian economic and trade delegation, the Iranian government has started making weekly payments, to the Kingdom for phosphate and fertilisers it had bought in 1991 and 1992, according to Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Marwan Awad.

Mr. Awad told the Jordan Times upon his return from Iran Saturday that the Tehran government has also agreed to facilitate trade between Jordan and Iran, encourage the exchange of visits by businesspersons from the two countries and consented to the formation of a joint business council to encourage dealings between Iranian and Jordanian banks.

According to Mr. Awad,

Jordan sells Iran an average \$25 million worth of phosphate and fertilisers annually and imports \$10 million worth of Iranian foodstuffs and several other products.

During the visit Mr. Awad initialled an agreement with Iran on future economic and trade cooperation. The deal will be formally signed in Amman by the concerned ministers in November, Mr. Awad said.

Under the terms of the agreement, the two countries will diversify products exchanged between them, facilitate the organisation of trade fairs, exempt from customs fees samples of goods introduced for display in either country from the other, and agreed to set up a joint trade committee to hold alternate meetings to discuss and remove obstacles that impede the progress of trade exchanges.

according to Mr. Awad.

The two sides agreed that the joint committee should hold its first meeting in Amman in November, and that an Iranian trade fair should be organised in Amman the same month, added Mr. Awad.

Jordan has also submitted a draft agreement on overland transport to be signed formally at a later date after the Iranians have endorsed the proposal, said the ministry official.

He said the Jordanian delegation, which comprised representatives of the ministries of Industry and Trade and Transport as well as the Central Bank and the Amman Chamber of Industry visited several factories in Tehran and Tabriz and inspected items displayed at the Tabriz International Fair where 125 firms from 12 countries are currently exhibiting their products.

IMF is highly satisfied with Jordan's performance — Gammoh

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has expressed high satisfaction that Jordan is adhering to the targets set in the IMF-prescribed economic restructuring programme, Minister of Finance Sami Gammoh said Saturday.

Mr. Gammoh said an IMF delegation, which was here last month for a regular review of the performance of Jordan's economy in the first six months of this year, was "highly impressed" that the Kingdom had not only managed to remain within the limits set in the economic programme but also to positively surpass some of the targets.

"Exports have gone up beyond the expected target set by the IMF, and imports have also declined in addition to inflation remaining within the ceiling," Mr. Gammoh told the Jordan Times.

The IMF mission expressed high satisfaction with the economic figures for the first half of this year.

He said the Kingdom's exports had gone up by two per cent over the figure set by the IMF, while its imports dropped by 0.4 per cent. Annual inflation is seen around four per cent for this year.

The finance minister said the IMF team was also satisfied with Jordan's moves to address its foreign debts burden.

IMF support is key to



Sami Gammoh

they were to be adopted now.

These include hikes in the water and power tariffs and structural and administrative reforms in the water and energy sectors. Privatisation of some of the public entities is also recommended by the IMF.

Jordan met one of the most difficult conditions of the IMF programme when it introduced a sales tax two months ago to replace a consumption tax that was in force since 1992. That cleared the last hurdle in the Kingdom's efforts to reschedule its debts to the Paris Club of creditor governments.

An accord with the Paris Club was reached on June 28 after the IMF gave a green signal indicating that Jordan was indeed abiding by the economic restructuring programme.

Officials say that no major economic measures are envisaged this year under the economic programme. However, the IMF and the World Bank are known to be pressing the Kingdom for increasing the power and water tariffs.

According to government experts, proposals under consideration involve "block tariffs" under which prices of water and power will go up along with the rate of consumption.

Such a structure, they say, will ensure that the poor, whose consumption tends to remain low, will not be asked to pay higher prices for the basic services.

Dentistry conference to start

Topics include effects of drugs in treatment

AMMAN (Petra) — The Dental Department at the Royal Medical Services is organising a three-day conference on dentistry at the Farah Centre of the King Hussein Medical Centre next week. Yassin Al Hisban, the department director, Saturday said that 36 working papers by specialists and pharmacists from Jordan, Arab and foreign countries will be submitted to the meeting, the fifth to be organised by the Royal Medical Services in Amman.

Dental implants, jaw malocclusion and problems related to the tempo mandibular joints will be among the topics to be discussed by the 300 participants, said Dr. Hisban.

He said that one of the papers from Jordan will tackle the challenges facing the dentistry profession in the Kingdom.

The pharmacists' papers, he added, will discuss the effects of medicines on dental treatment in general.

The head of medical services in the Canadian armed forces will deliver a lecture on the training and recruitment of doctors and nurses in the Canadian army, said Dr. Hisban.

He said that apart from doctors from the Royal Medical Services and the public health sector in Jordan,



A dentist examines the teeth and gums of her young patient (File photo)

and tourist areas in Jordan, said Dr. Hisban.

Referring to the dentistry department, Dr. Hisban noted that a new dentistry section including a unit for dental implants will be opened at the centre on Nov. 14, coinciding with the Kingdom's observance of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

the Royal Cultural Centre on 20:00.

LECTURE

★ Lecture in Arabic entitled "AIDS Between Reality and Illusion" by Dr. Romel Jad'an at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 18:30.

EXHIBITIONS

★ Painting on copper exhibition by Mohammad Judd at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture (Tel. 695291).

★ "The Child's World Festival 1994" (containing all

children needs) at the World Exhibition Center, University Road (Tel. 643844).

★ Exhibition of painting by several Jordanian artists entitled "The Fact Between Paintings and Viewers As Viewed By Artist" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of new paintings by Diana Shamoudi at The Gallery, Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel (8:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.)

★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Princess Wijdan Ali at the Balqa' Art Gallery in Fuhels (10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 720677).

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Splash!" at the American Center at 17:00.

PLAY

★ Children's play entitled "Long Liver the Dead Sea" at

Cuba accuses Clinton of double blockade on refugees

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Cuba and some of its fiercest critics have found a rare point of agreement — denunciations of President Bill Clinton's plan to detain Cuban refugees rather than welcome them to U.S. shores.

In a first reaction to Mr. Clinton's move, Cuba's official Prensa Latina news agency called it "a cheap political manoeuvre" and blamed the U.S. economic embargo for the exodus from the Communist island.

Cuban exiles in Miami also protested, claiming the U.S. measure punishes those who had risked their lives to reach the United States.

Many Cubans continued to head out to sea in home-built rafts Friday even after Mr. Clinton said they would be detained at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba, rather than allowed automatic residence in the United States.

However, at least one rafter who was forced back to shore by problems at sea said the new U.S. policy meant he would not try again.

Reporters in Cuba said they saw scores of people setting out to sea in the Havana area several hours after the new U.S. policy was announced.

Prensa Latina said the new policy was "the payment from Washington for those who trust in the neighbour."

It said the action, coming on top of the economic embargo, was "a double blockade, this one of a cheap political character, to block the arrival of those who

trusted in the open-arms propaganda of the powerful neighbour."

Mr. Castro dropped efforts to prevent non-violent departures from Cuba last week after a series of armed boat hijackings and the worst riot of his 35-year rule.

He accused the United States of encouraging illegal departures by tightly limiting legal visas while welcoming Cubans who arrive illegally in Florida.

Cuba's desperate economic crisis had already fed a growing clandestine exodus. The new freedom to leave led hundreds to openly launch rafts from Havana beachfronts for the dangerous 145-kilometre (90-mile) voyage to the United States.

More than 3,000 Cubans have been rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard so far this month, nearly as many as in all of last year and the largest number since 1980, the last time Mr. Castro opened the gates to unrestricted departures.

Some Cubans said the new U.S. policy would not stop the exodus.

"If the people are ready to drown (aboard rafts), the matter of Guantanamo is not important," said a young man repairing a 1951 Chevrolet as hundreds jammed the nearby waterfront at Cojimar. The small East Havana harbour has become a major new launching pad for refugees.

"The base at Guantanamo isn't going to be big enough," said an older man sitting on the Cojimar Sea wall watch-

ing people leave.

Neither he nor the younger man gave their names.

In Ecuador, Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said Friday that Havana was ready for "serious and profound discussion" with the United States to put an end to the exodus.

But he said, "my country is not willing to continue protecting the coasts of the United States."

Even Mr. Castro's foes in Florida felt wounded by the policy change that could mean long detention for family members fleeing Cuba.

"We have been betrayed," said Leticia Ramos, who waited overnight in Key West in vain for two cousins who left Cuba by raft Wednesday.

"These people have been through hell in the ocean and putting up with Castro," said her husband, Jack Canalejo. "Now they have put up with all this and they can't even see their family."

Following up on his decision to bar Cuban boat people from U.S. shores, President Clinton is preparing a four-step action plan to increase the pressure on Mr. Castro's Communist regime.

As sketched by a senior White House official Friday night, the actions include "a significant cutback" in payments made by Cuban-Americans to relatives in Cuba, a step that could deny the financially strapped country an important source of hard currency.

The administration mobilised resources quickly to start detaining Cuban boat people



Hundreds of Cubans gather on the coast near Cojimar, Cuba, to say goodbye to friends and family preparing to escape in makeshift boats. U.S. President Bill Clinton said that Cubans caught coming to the United States would be detained (AFP photo)

and avoid a large influx of refugees into the United States.

But it has yet to decide what will eventually happen to those it intercepts.

The new steps to be announced by Mr. Clinton Saturday also include "heeded-up" U.S. radio broadcasts to Cuba and a cutback of flights between the United States and Cuba.

The United States will seek further punitive action against Cuba at the United Nations, said the White

House official, who briefed reporters under condition of anonymity.

The official said the details of the actions to be taken were still being worked out, such as exactly what cuts will be made in remittances from Cuban-Americans to relatives and others still living in Cuba.

Some Republican senators had criticised Mr. Clinton earlier for not moving directly to punish Mr. Castro for the "provocative" policies that led to an exodus of refugees from Cuba.

But the White House official said, the new policies will speak for themselves and that the president "is moving deliberately and quite sharply."

Mr. Clinton, meanwhile, met Friday night with Florida Gov. Lawton Chiles, whose state has been a magnet for a recent outpouring of Haitian as well as Cuban refugees.

Mr. Chiles said in a statement that Clinton's policy of denying Cubans entry into the United States while granting them safe havens elsewhere will save Cuban lives and "lessen the impact

of this crisis on the people of Florida."

Mr. Chiles was accompanied to the White House meeting by several Cuban-American leaders. He said they exchanged views with Mr. Clinton and would return for a second session Saturday after taking an opportunity "to do a little thinking about it."

Pentagon officials said the Coast Guard will take the lead in setting up a "picket line" to intercept Cubans at sea who would then be shuttled to the naval base.

Seoul sets conditions on nuclear aid; North rejects inspections

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea said Saturday it won't give North Korea a modern nuclear reactor unless it opens its nuclear programme to full inspection, a demand the North immediately rejected.

"We will never allow the inspection of the military sites at the expense of our sovereignty to receive light-water reactors," North Korea's Foreign Ministry said.

"This is our unshakable will," Pyongyang said in a report carried by its Korean Central News Agency (KCNA).

"Therefore, we declare once again that we will never allow a 'special inspection,' though we are willing to involve ourselves in clearing up 'nuclear suspicion' in the future," North Korea said.

Its apparent intransigence on the issue of special inspections casts a pall over the U.S.-North Korea nuclear agreement concluded on Aug. 13.

South Korea's deputy prime minister, meanwhile, said Washington ought to help pay for the reactor, an idea sure to rub the U.S. Congress and American taxpayers the wrong way.

Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo linked a series of preconditions to Seoul's willingness to provide the North with the new reactor.

"The government's position is that South-North economic cooperation will be pursued in stages if and when the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved," Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-Koo told reporters.

"Concrete plans to that end will gradually emerge in the course of talks between the United States and North Korea and between the two parts of Korea themselves," said Mr. Lee, who is also the minister of unification affairs.

Pyongyang would first have to fully comply with the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, complete dry storage of 8,000 plutonium-laden spent fuel rods and stop building two graphite-moderated reactors in exchange for electric power from the South, officials told Yonhap News Agency, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Later, Seoul will demand that the reactors provided to the North be of South Korean design and manufacture, and Japan and the United States help pay for them, the officials were quoted as saying.

Various U.S. laws bar the United States from providing funds or nuclear technology to an "enemy" state such as North Korea, thus complicating the package deal.

Mr. Lee told reporters after a meeting with President Kim Young-Sam that "the U.S. should be willing to extend appropriate financial and technological support for the project in keeping with its commitment to uphold the (nuclear non-proliferation treaty) regime. Japan should also fulfil an appropriate role in the project."

Also, as part of second-phase preconditions, linkage between North Korea-U.S. talks preconditions, linkage between North Korea-U.S. talks and inter-Korean dialogue, and discussion of family reunions and human rights improvements in North Korea should be considered, Yonhap reported.

About 10 million Koreans in the North and South are separated from relatives by the impenetrable border between the two states.

The officials were quoted by Yonhap as saying that while Seoul is willing to supply surplus electric power to North Korea, it will not provide oil, fearing it could be used for military purposes.

He will then travel on to Malaysia Friday where opposition leader, Lim Kit Siang has already demanded that Mr. Murayama give the go ahead for compensation to victims of atrocity committed in the country by the Japanese army.

Mr. Murayama ends his visit Monday in Singapore, where the Japanese army's legacy is equally keenly felt.

The civilian death toll while Japan overran vast areas of Asia is estimated at up to two million in Indonesia, 1.1 million in the Philippines and about 50,000 in Malaysia and in Singapore, according to figures published by Japanese scholars.

Mr. Murayama, on the 49th anniversary of Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, said the country had inflicted "tragic suffering which defies

Murayama confronts history on Asian visit

TOKYO (AFP) — Japanese Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama begins Tuesday an official eight-day visit to four Asian countries, a trip which may show how well the scars of history have healed.

The main objective for the Socialist government head is to tighten economic links with South East Asia, the primary target of Japanese investors.

But Japanese atrocities in World War II is a subject that won't go away and one of the biggest obstacles Mr. Murayama will face during his trip.

He will first visit the Philippines, one of the places where "comfort women" were forced by the Japanese army to serve as prostitutes for the emperor's soldiers.

Surviving victims and victims' families have threatened to demonstrate during his visit.

Nelia Sanchez, president of an organisation defending the interests of the women who are claiming compensation from the Japanese government, said the demonstration will occur in front of the Japanese embassy and the

Manila Hotel where Mr. Murayama will stay.

Mr. Murayama is due to arrive in Vietnam Thursday, becoming the first Japanese head of government to visit since the country's 1975 unification.

He will then travel on to Malaysia Friday where opposition leader, Lim Kit Siang has already demanded that Mr. Murayama give the go ahead for compensation to victims of atrocity committed in the country by the Japanese army.

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Mr. Murayama, on the 49th anniversary of Japan's surrender on Aug. 15, said the country had inflicted "tragic suffering which defies

all description" on Asian countries during the war.

Seeking to repair the damage caused three days earlier by State Minister and Environmental Agency Director General Shin Sakurai, who said Japan had not wanted to lead a war of aggression in Asia, Mr. Murayama accepted his resignation and announced the setting up of a fund to compensate Japan's war victims.

On the economical and political front, Asia is now considered as "the most important region" for Japan, in the words of a senior foreign affairs minister.

Japanese investments represent 25 per cent of the total foreign investment among the ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) nations: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.

In Vietnam Murayama is expected to announce an aid package of 7.7 billion yen (\$77 million) to assist reforms there.

Japan suspended its economic relations with Vietnam in 1979 following the invasion of Cambodia, but began granting loans to Hanoi in 1992 after the withdrawal of Vietnamese personnel from Cambodia.

In the Philippines and Malaysia, Mr. Murayama will discuss the effect of the soaring yen on trade and the repayment of yen loans.

On the political front, this trip, which may be followed by an autumn visit to China, will be a chance for Mr. Murayama to assure Japan's trading partners of the continuity of Japanese policy and diplomacy after the rise to power in June of the first Socialist prime minister for 47 years.

More than 50 per cent of Japanese have a low opinion of the cabinet of Mr. Murayama, according to a Jiji Press opinion poll published Saturday.

The Jiji survey covering some 1,400 eligible voters, aged 20 or more, found that 51 per cent of them rated the Murayama cabinet low, against 33.3 per cent who rated it high.

Observers are sceptical a credible election can be held in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Foreign and domestic observers say Mexico's weekend vote for president may be the cleanest ever, but many are still sceptical it will be free of fraud.

Civic Alliance, the largest of several independent poll-watching groups, said its directors were roughed up, its offices in Matamoros, Ran-sacked, and some of its workers threatened around the election.

The alliance, a coalition of non-governmental groups helping to train foreign observers, blamed the government and ruling party for the harassment.

"The conditions do not exist that would permit the qualification of the 1994 electoral process as fair or trustworthy," the group said ahead of Sunday's vote, a key test of Mexico's resolve to match economic with democratic reforms.

But it said late Friday enough advances had been made to leave open the possibility of a "relatively credible" election.

The election is of crucial interest to the democracies of North America and Europe, which embarked on a greater free-trade relationship with Mexico after this country dramatically opened its economy.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari, allowed only one six-year term, launched the North American Free Trade Agreement with the United States and Canada on Jan. 1 after adopting bold free-market reforms.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton said Friday he expected the election would be "free, open and fair."

"I expect them to produce a result which will be accepted by the people of Mexico," Mr. Clinton said.

Ernesto Zedillo of the institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, is favoured to win. That would ensure the party's continuous hold on the presidency since it was formed 65 years ago.

Former Congressman Diego Fernandez De Cevallos of the conservative National Action Party was second in recent polls. Cuauhtemoc Cardenas, repeat candidate of the leftist Democratic Revolutionary Party, lagged in third after a lackluster campaign. He contends Mr. Salinas stole the 1988 election from him.

Analysts said that with one in four of Mexico's 45.7 million voters undecided, Sunday's election could deliver a surprise. The top vote-getter wins regardless of the final totals.

The Carter centre at Em-

ory University in Atlanta, Georgia, sent a 15-member team that reported the election likely will be the cleanest in Mexico's history but that problems remain. The delegation included a group of former heads of state and politicians.

"It's important that Mexicans know the world is watching," said spokesman Joe Clark, a former Canadian prime minister.

Former U.S. House Speaker Jim Wright said he was "very sensitive" to Mexican concerns about foreign interference and prejudging the vote.

"I consider myself an invited guest," Mr. Wright said at a group news conference Friday. "I wouldn't go into my neighbour's home and tell him how to hang his pictures or how to arrange his furniture."

But the group, in a report issued last week, said Mexican parties were fighting on "an uneven playing field" due to media coverage favouring the PRI and \$40 million presidential campaign spending cap only the PRI could reach.

The Civil Alliance said armed men carrying walkie-talkies broke up a meeting of eight of the alliance's directors Thursday night at a downtown restaurant.

Jakarta rules out talks with 'non-existent' rebels

JAKARTA (AFP) — The Indonesian military Saturday rejected an offer of a unilateral ceasefire by East Timorese guerrillas in exchange for talks, saying the rebel group no longer posed a serious threat.

A spokesman for the East Timor military command, Major Simbolon, told AFP by phone that the offer was "groundless... a propaganda effort to make people know that they still exist."

However they have been paralysed "and no longer exist," he said. "They do not have any more power."

Maj. Simbolon put the number of guerrillas still fighting from the jungle at no more than 200, and said they no longer represented a security threat.

On Friday Ramos Horta, special representative of the

Maubere Resistance National Council, the rebels' umbrella group, told Lisbon radio station TSF that the offer had been proposed in a message from resistance Commander Kunis Santana.

Com. Santana and his partisans are fighting for the independence of East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that was seized by Indonesian troops in December 1975.

The annexation has never been recognised by the United Nations.

Mr. Horta said the proposal called for talks to take place either under the auspices of the bishop of Dili, Monsignor Ximenes Belo, or the United Nations.

The possibility of direct negotiations was "an Indonesian military initiative," according to Mr. Horta.

In his broadcast Mr. Horta added that the United Na-

tions must become involved in the talks to ensure that they do not become "a bilateral affair" and to prevent possible Indonesian government pressure on Monsignor Belo.

He said the army and the rebels were currently engaged in "heavy fighting" in the Bancau, Los Palmas and Viqueque regions.

"The resistance is very active in these central areas," according to Mr. Horta, "to the extent that Indonesian authorities refused to authorise a visit to the region by Japanese MPs who were in the territory last week."

"This initiative could simply be an attempt by the military to reach a settlement with the guerrillas without involving the Jakarta government or the United Nations."

"There are differences on this point between the In-

donesian government and the army."

"The resistance will unilaterally observe a ceasefire if the process of dialogue gets under way, either under the auspices of the bishop of Dili or the United Nations. But the Indonesians must be ready to negotiate."

Portugal and Indonesia have been taking part in U.N.-sponsored talks on East Timor for the past 11 years.

The Indonesian authorities arrested dissident leader Xanana Gusmao in 1992 and jailed him to life last year, for plotting against the state, and illegal possession of firearms.

In August President Suharto converted the sentence to a 20-year jail term.

Mr. Gusmao was head of the Fretilin East Timorese pro-independence movement from 1979 until his arrest in Dili.

Drunk policeman who drove wrong way suspended

BORDEAUX, France (AFP) — A policeman who drove in a drunken daze down the wrong side of a motorway and caused an accident in which he and four others were hurt, has been suspended from duty, the public prosecutor here said Friday. The policeman, in his 40s, whose identity was not revealed, was off duty Tuesday night when the accident occurred on the A62 motorway near this southeast town. He was seriously injured in the crash and was still too ill Friday to answer investigators' questions. His vehicle collided with another with four people aboard, all of whom were seriously injured. The prosecutor's office denied it was giving the man favourable treatment because he was a police officer. "We are not going to harass him while he is still in intensive care," a spokesman said.

Jimi Hendrix memorabilia auction

LONDON (AP) — Fans of Jimi Hendrix snapped up clothes and guitars of the 1960s American rock star, spending \$225,000 (\$349,000) at a London auction. One orange floral velvet jacket sold for \$41,800 (\$64,790) to an anonymous telephone bidder, who also bought a striped wool jacket for \$23,800 (\$39,215). Bonham's auction house said after the sale. The highest-priced item was a Gibson flying V guitar that went for \$50,600 (\$78,430). "It's been amazing," said a Bonhams spokeswoman. "People seem determined to get Hendrix memorabilia at any cost."

The seller was not identified. Hendrix died in London in 1970 after taking drugs. The sale total for the Hendrix material was \$225,373 (\$349,328). Telephone bids came in from America, where Hard Rock Cafe co-founder Peter Morton snapped up items for his new Las Vegas Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. Mr. Morton was the buyer of the Gibson guitar. He also paid \$22,000 (\$34,100) for a psychedelic cotton "poppy" jacket from 1967. Other Hendrix guitars went for \$14,300 (\$22,165) and \$7,700 (\$11,955).

German tourists sleep with decomposing body

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida (AFP) — A German couple slept through the night in a motel room here, apparently without noticing a decomposing corpse stuffed under their bed. Though motel employees had detected a strong odor for several days, the staff put the couple in the room anyway, police said Thursday. The decaying corpse of Bryan Gregory, 47, was discovered Wednesday wrapped in plastic and tucked under a platform bed only after the couple checked out. Authorities reported that Gregory, who was from New York, had long criminal history including fraud and arson. They just thought it was a bad smell. No one bothered to look for the source until it became overwhelming, police spokeswoman Sonya Friedman said. This was not the first time Florida officials have dealt with such a situation. In March, a German tourist in Miami Springs complained of a foul smell, which was traced to the body of a woman under his bed.

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Effort for new climate

AS THE London-based Baring Securities Limited concluded in a report on Jordan it published recently, the Kingdom has a very good potential for becoming a centre of attraction for international investment if only the government could liberalise the economy and improve conditions for investment. Situated at the centre of the east Mediterranean Arab region, blessed with a modern, though moderate, telecommunication infrastructure and a motivated and relatively educated workforce, Jordan could easily be turned into the Singapore of the Middle East, the report said.

Recent developments in this part of the world and the new dawn of peace are catching the attention of many potential investors, who, like Baring Securities, are looking for fresh markets for international investment. And being the logical gateway to the newly proclaimed autonomous Palestinian areas that need billions of dollars of investment in all sorts of infrastructure projects, Jordan could become the factory for Palestinian needs. Furthermore, the promise of an integrated Middle East region will certainly heat the economies of the region, accelerate growth and enhance competition.

Within these parameters Jordan should not sit idle waiting for the fruits to fall on their own. A great deal of reform is needed.

Unfortunately reform has eluded us for many years. Commission after commission was formed in the past 20 years only to produce no, or little tangible progress. Neither the commissions for administrative reform nor those entrusted with cutting down on red tape has shown real success. In a country in which the state employs almost half of the workforce, the forces that resist change are formidable. Despite the fact that almost all state-run enterprises and services are suffering from inefficiency and bureaucracy, all calls for change seem to fall on deaf ears.

The last resort that we would like to pin hope on these days is the formation of the Royal Commission for Reform and Modernisation, headed by His Royal Highness the Crown Prince. After the failure of all past governments to effect genuine change, the leadership seems now to be determined to take charge of an awesome task. We hope that the present Royal Commission will not meet the same fate as its predecessors did. For that to happen and for the commission to achieve its aims, we believe that an auxiliary of qualified and visionary Jordanians should be set up to probe work in all areas of government activity and propose immediate solutions and measures to reform both the bureaucracy and the economy.

Perhaps we no longer should believe in the viability of radical solutions. But the urgency and the challenges presented by fast moving developments in the region and world-wide dictate that we take radical steps to put the country on the right path to the future.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL DUSTOUR daily newspaper Saturday described the latest round of Jordanian-Israeli negotiations as having achieved no tangible results due to Israel's intransigent position with regard to substantial issues. The talks on the Israeli side of the Dead Sea yielded no positive results and did not reflect the mutual confidence displayed on the part of the two sides at the start of the bilateral meetings, said the paper. It is true that the negotiating process is naturally long and arduous but the Israelis seemed all the time bent on discussing non-substantial questions and steering away from the topics included in the common agenda and the Washington Declaration, said the daily. Noting that the Israeli side has clearly deviated from such questions as the borders with Jordan, the end of occupation of Jordanian territory, water resources and security, the paper said that these and other issues constitute the core of the negotiations.

A columnist in Al Ta'i daily said that without the end of occupation in line with U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, there can be no peace in the region. Ahmad Mislbeh said the negotiations with the Jewish state have so far manifested an obvious intention on the part of Israel to hold on the Arab lands, which means a rejection of Arab bids for peace in exchange for land and a disregard for U.N. resolutions.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

Foreign trade finally on track

THE FOREIGN trade indicators, depicting imports and exports of commodities, were almost the only economic indicators giving negative readings under the economic adjustment programme, supervised by the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Trade deficit increased year after year, because imports were soaring rapidly, while exports were growing slowly. The gap widened regularly in full contradiction with the targets set in the programme.

Most economic, monetary and fiscal actual indicators were far better than originally projected by the programme, which forced IMF experts to revise their projections and targets in a favourable direction. The performance in foreign trade sector, however, was not satisfactory and those experts were continuously reinstating their forecasts and targets in an unfavourable direction. The updated projections of the balance of payments reflected more trade deficit than was envisaged by the earlier versions of projections.

This weak point in the performance of the economic adjustment effort called for some remedial action. However, it was obvious that a government intervention through the imposition of restrictions on imports will be a blow to the essential principle of the programme which is based on a free market economy, and on the reduction of bureaucratic orders to deal with activities that can be better dealt with by the forces of supply and demand in a free market that can seek its own balance.

It seems that patience and perseverance, despite the temptation to intervene, had finally given fruits. The

indicators of Jordanian foreign trade are now giving the right signals. Exports started to grow in leaps while imports slowed down a lot. The trade deficit started to narrow for the first time since the introduction of the economic adjustment programme late in 1991.

Actual statistics of foreign trade, during the first four months of 1994, witnessed an essential change of direction, which will reverse the previous course of development. The change exceeded the expectations and hopes of the extreme optimists.

During the first third of the year, national exports grew at the rate of 25.4 per cent to reach JD232.5 million. Re-exports grew at 146.3 per cent to reach JD72 million, thus the total exports reached JD304.5 million and were 42 per cent higher than the same period of last year.

At the same time, imports increased by a mere 2 per cent to reach JD710.7 million, thus the net trade deficit in the commodity sector decreased by 15.8 per cent, to stand at JD76.3 million. This is the first decrease in trade deficit registered in several years. There is every reason to expect this new trend to continue all through 1994.

The positive change in the foreign trade indicators in the right direction, which took place without direct intervention by the government, is a clear evidence that the right economic policy must give the right results on the longer term, and that the economy must be led more by indirect means without having to resort to unnecessary direct intervention which may backfire or cause undesired side-effects.



The sweatshouses for children are unfair all around

By Jack Sheinkman

NEW YORK — Summer is a time when children in the Western democracies look for jobs to earn some extra money before returning to school. But what about the 100 to 200 million children worldwide, who work summer and winter, with no opportunities at all for schooling? According to the organisation Child-Rights Worldwide, this number will reach 400 million by the year 2000.

Yet the U.S. Congress may soon agree to put the U.S. signature to a worldwide trade agreement, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, that locks this outrageous situation into place.

While American children are in summer school or at camp, children as young as 3 and 4 are weaving carpets in Pakistan. The International Textile, Garment and Leather Workers' Federation has documented appalling conditions worldwide.

In Karan, Pakistan, 5-year-old Shabeel works with 300 other children

from 6 A.M. to 7 P.M. for less than 20 cents a day. A sign in his workplace says that any child caught sleeping will be fined \$60. If any of these children cry, they are beaten or forced to spend five days chained to the loom.

Some children in India branded like cattle by their employers. Last year in New Delhi, an 11-year-old working in a weaving factory had paraffin poured over his head and was set afire by his boss as a punishment.

When the Clinton administration signed the North American Free Trade Agreement last year, it declared that workers' rights and environmental standards were vital to a trade pact as narrow commercial concerns.

Led by Trade Representative Mickey Kantor, administration officials advocated that protections for these rights be included in the GATT accord. Faced with opposition from countries whose competitive advantage derives from a low-wage labour pool,

Washington did not prevail.

There soon, Congress, working with the administration, could agree on a final version of legislation to carry out the accord. Congress then has 90 days to vote on the bill, with no option to make any changes — what is known as the fast-track procedure.

By racing to carry out the accord without toughening its labour standards, Congress and the administration are putting millions of U.S. jobs at risk by linking the American economy to those of countries that lag dramatically behind America in wages and work standards.

Supporting the agreement in its current form means supporting the multinational corporations that roam the globe in search of ever lower labour costs and do not want to give up their right to rob children and young adults of their youth.

Thus, setting humanitarian work standards, as recognised by the International Labour Organisation, is not only the ethical thing to do, it also makes economic sense. GATT should be re-

vised to guarantee rights for children and parents just as law-makers seek to protect copyright, patents and other rights in the expanded global economy.

If the current accord is approved by the United States and other member nations, there is a way it can be strengthened. After it goes into effect, GATT will put into place a World Trade Organisation to oversee the new trade rules. This body should include mechanisms to enforce internationally recognised workers' rights, including outlawing child labour, and set environmental standards.

In an era when foreign policy is increasingly intertwined with economic interests, the United States should use its considerable influence to protect American living standards while improving the lot of workers abroad.

The writer is president of the Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers Union. This article is reprinted from the New York Times.

Bosnian Serbs rely on West's desire for peace

By Jovan Kovacic
Reuters

PALE, Bosnia — Isolated Bosnian Serbs are counting on the West having a burning wish for peace in Bosnia at almost any cost and a desire to stop the catastrophic spread of war.

"The odds are indeed stacked against us and they could not be higher, but our trump cards are still good enough," a source close to the Bosnian Serb leadership told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The Bosnian Serbs face an angry international community tired of stubborn refusals to accept a series of peace plans drawn up during the bloody course of the war.

Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic has broken with them, determined to force his former proteges into accepting peace.

And NATO contemplates punishing them for their obstinacy by using air power to render powerless the deciding factor on Bosnia's battlefields — potent Bosnian Serb heavy weaponry.

To all of this the Bosnian Serbs have responded with defiance.

The major powers insist the Bosnian Serbs accept a plan carving Bosnia into two parts, with 51 per cent awarded to the new Muslim-Croat federation and the rest to the Serbs.

The Bosnian Serbs claim the proposed map resembles "a burned out rag" leaving their self-styled state an indefensible and economically unviable entity. They are being pressed to accept it and argue for territorial exchanges later.

"The West knows that we are dead set on refusing the map. It is also aware that we want to accept the 49 to 51 per cent ratio, but only after we negotiate territory."

"The West has no option but to go along unless it wants the war to spread — and we are quite sure it wants to avoid that," the source said.

"Renegotiating now would be a face saving gesture for all concerned — we would have what we want, the Muslims' losses would be minimised and the world would have its peace plan for Bosnia accepted."

He was also confident that despite recent victories on the battlefield the Muslims would agree to trade land.

"Have you any idea what (Serb-held) Sarajevo is worth to them? Certainly more than three (Muslim-held) enclaves in eastern Bosnia."

He shrugged off threats by U.S. President Bill Clinton to lift the arms embargo and ship weapons to the Muslims.

"To arm them would take up to four years and that is time the Muslims do not have."

But time is running out for Bosnia's Serbs if Milosevic resists internal pressure by nationalists in Serbia and maintains his blockade, diplomats in Bel-

grade say. Bosnian Serb hardliners answer by pointing out that the lifting of the arms embargo will benefit them more than the Muslims, as countries carry out their threat to pull out their U.N. peacekeepers, leaving Muslim civilians unprotected. "Let them lift the arms embargo, then the UNPROFOR (U.N. Protection Force) goes so we can really hit the Muslims and finish this once and for all," a former Sarajevo sector commander of the Bosnian Serb army told Reuters.

Hardliners count on the ensuing chaos leading to a larger Islamic involvement in Bosnia, with the West forced to keep unwanted interference at bay.

"Imagine Turkey wanting to reinforce its embattled troops in Bosnia. They would have to fly over Greece, Bulgaria, Italy or Yugoslavia. The possibilities for disaster in the volatile Balkans are endless," the commander said.

"The Bosnian Serbs face an angry international community tired of stubborn refusals to accept a series of peace plans drawn up during the bloody course of the war."

Nor does the threat of NATO air strikes worry Serb commanders who believe air crew casualties would put public pressure on Western governments to back off.

If they happen hardliners count on air raids causing an unbridgeable rift between Western powers and Russia, a traditional Serb ally. They believe Russia is strongly opposed to lifting the arms embargo and any further air strikes.

The use of air power, the Bosnian Serbs say, would put pressure on Milosevic by aggrieved nationalists, alarmed by attacks on other Serbs, either to lift his blockade or face political downfall.

"If we do not accept the plan, sanctions against Serbia will remain in place and so will the pressure on Milosevic. If neighbouring countries get involved, or we get clobbered, then he can no longer pussyfoot around with nothing to show for it."

LETTERS

'Stay east, young man'

To the Editor:

AFTER READING Ayman Zanoon's letter (Jordan Times, Aug. 17), I had to write and give a real life account, of a "pursuer of paradise."

A little over 20 years ago, a young man left his home and family in search of a brighter and richer life that was only known to exist in the West. After the initial culture shock, he started to pick up the language and the new customs; a year later he could speak and carry himself just like one of his hosts. He was a bright young man, so he was able to compete and do for himself what most would have thought to be impossible for someone of his age and of his background. He ignored discrimination, and tried to pretend it did not exist, he worked double hard to prove himself worthy of what he earned. He was the generous, witty, happy go-lucky immigrant that took as a joke less than complimentary comments made about his heritage, his people and his homeland. He went to school, washed dishes, cooked, sold newspapers, served the host country, taught his native tongue in colleges, managed large construction projects, and tried to live like a model citizen.

However, there was always something that made life less than perfect, and often unbearable. Never was he given the opportunity to feel he was a welcomed addition to the population, and there was always that yearning and need for him to be who he really is or was. There was always

something missing, like a need that could not be purchased in foreign currency, or at the local ethnic market.

That young man was myself. I woke one morning, not too long ago, to a news brief on CNN that was telling of the new peace initiatives. I started to remember my home and family that I had not seen in years, in some cases, of newborn, never seen before except in pictures. I also realised what peace would mean. Suddenly, I was filled with optimism and hope for the future, my future, my family's and my country's. Only a few short days later, I was aboard a Royal Jordanian flight back home.

I support and salute His Majesty King Hussein for his leadership and wisdom in the peace initiative. Also I thank citizens like Mr. Ayyoub, and Mr. Twaif (letters, Jordan Times, Aug. 15 and Aug. 17) for their optimism and readiness to make this new way of life work for all of us. Yes, I am ready and I am back home. On the dawn of my first morning here, upon hearing the Mo'athin calling for the morning prayer, I got up and prayed, and realised that an emptiness inside me had been fulfilled, when after I was done, eight of my nephews and nieces stormed me like I have always been a part of their life.

In closing, I have one piece of advice for any of our young people thinking about immigrating, "stay east, young man." Preferably, the Middle East.

Nadim Al Jaouni,
Jabal Al Hussein,
Amman.

A more expensive, less attractive Petra!

To the Editor:

I WAS sorry to see the Ministry of Tourism increase the entrance fee for foreigners into Petra by 400 per cent to JD20 beginning September 1. At a time when Jordan has the potential to see a dramatic influx of visitors on the heels of ever-promising peace, this move may backfire, and prove yet another blow to a sector of the country's economy which could be a major source of revenue in the coming years.

Would it not have been better to make a moderate increase, say to JD10? For me to take my family of 5 will now cost a minimum of JD100, excluding horses and food, which would add another JD60-70. To spend almost \$250 for a day at Petra makes that magnificent wonder considerably less attractive, not only to me, but also to many foreigners.

I hope the ministry reconsider the steep rise it is poised to command. As a member of the Petra National Trust, and one who cherishes its marvellous splendour and beauty, there must be better alternatives in the drive to boost tourism while preserving these sites.

Kirk Albrecht,
Amman.

Reproductive choice seen as key to population control

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) last week released its annual report which championed the freedom of reproductive choice, empowerment of women and stressed the importance of reproductive health and the long-term policies which would render sustainable development and economic growth possible in the developing world.

The report, which basically stresses population control, is well timed to complement the opening in less than two weeks of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo on Sept. 5.

The UNFPA notes that the world population had reached 5.6 billion people by mid 1994, with an average annual increase of 94 million. Over half the growth is taking place in the poorest countries of Asia and Africa. Nearly all of the increase is in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The UNFPA's declared goal is to create a balance between population growth and the world's ability to care and feed its people. The alleviation of poverty, an improvement of food supplies, an end to malnutrition and providing adequate housing are among the actions that according to UNFPA report, will induce a "balanced population growth."

The issue of choice

Among the main themes of the UNFPA's report and one of the main subjects to be tackled at the September conference is the empowerment of women. Women's empowerment is considered by many development agencies to be the key to social progress, which incorporates "population related problems."

By empowerment, the UNFPA means 1) equality under the law 2) equal access to education, 3) jobs and 4) quality reproductive health care.

Empowerment is a series of interrelated choices in areas of family planning which can lead to improved health for women, as well as a wide range of options related to education, marriage, employment, housing and migration.

"Ensuring free choice in the matter of family size would slow population growth to a rate more compatible with sustained and sustainable economic growth," states the report.

At the moment a target group of some 350 million couples worldwide that are not using modern contraceptive means have been identified, says UNFPA report.

"Encouraging and supporting women's growing command of the means to manage their own fertility is a matter for national governments and the international community."

At present, the UNFPA estimates that three quarters of all couples in the industrialised world as well as over half of the population in developing nations make use of family planning or contraceptives.

The disparity between the industrialised and developing world is great and there are immense national and regional differences. Seventy-five per cent of the couples in the industrialised countries are using modern forms of contraceptives whereas only 55 per cent of women in the developing world are using them.

And even within the developing world the contrasts are striking; they range from Niger where a cross national survey indicated that 4 per cent of the women of child bearing age were using contraceptive methods to Korea where 77 per cent of the female population was using contraceptives.

Health

The UNFPA states that while there are means to facilitate making "choice" available to women, "access to health care, particu-

larly reproductive health care, is still inadequate in the vast majority of developing countries."

The UNFPA believes that some 120 million women wish to use modern contraceptives but do not have access to them.

According to the UNFPA report, pregnancy and pregnancy related complications claim the lives of half a million women annually. "Every minute of the day a woman dies from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth."

The main cause for the high percentage of female mortality is considered to be lack of adequate reproductive/pre-natal health care, family planning and services rendering family planning possible.

To prove the point, UNFPA cites figures comparing mortality rates for women, as a result of pregnancy, in Europe, North America and Japan to those of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

"Virtually no lives are lost," in the former regions as a result of pregnancy, states the report, whereas in Asia, Africa and Latin America the lives of 500,000 women are claimed.

Women living in the former regions have almost universal access to reproductive health care, family planning and services whereas women living in the latter do not.

The report defines successful population programmes as policies that "integrate family planning with other reproductive health services, including treatment of infertility, reproductive tract infections, HIV/AIDS and a wide range of sexually transmitted diseases."

The women's percentage of HIV victims has risen from 20 per cent to 40 per cent globally, with the vast majority of the affected women living in the developing countries. In North America and Eastern Europe, HIV affected men still outnumber women by a large margin.

The single greatest health disparity between the developing and industrialised worlds remains maternal mortality rates. A woman in the developing world is 13 times as likely to die as a result of pregnancy or during childbirth as a woman in the industrialised world.

According to UNFPA estimates, 5 million women fall ill as a result of childbirth or pregnancy because they are either too young or too old to endure a safe pregnancy, because they had too many children or because the birth spacing was not conducive to maintaining adequate maternal health.

Sustainable economic development

Governments need to increase investment in education, health and improving the status of women as a means to improve human development, keeping a balance between population growth and resource distribution, says the report of the steps that need to be taken by governments vis-a-vis long-term economic planning.

The world's food production has increased by 24 per cent in the last 10 years, outpacing population growth. And while the sparsity of food remains a virtual myth, says the report, hunger and malnutrition are a reality. An unequitable distribution of wealth and food are the main reasons for hunger and want.

The report says that a lack of purchasing power rather than a shortage of food production and availability is the reason for hunger.

In Africa, food production actually decreased by 5 per cent while the population increase reached 34 per cent.

It is estimated that as many as 780 million people are undernourished in developing countries.

Poverty and gender discrimination

According to the UNFPA, "recent findings con-

test the view that poverty is the main barrier to increased use of family planning."

Poverty induced ignorance and lack of choice and services, often for lack of financial means, prevent millions of women from benefiting from basic health care.

According to UNFPA, gender discrimination in nutrition and health care from childhood in many societies still place women in the "second class" citizenship category.

As a result, women still die younger than men in many regions of the developing world.

Cultural factors and widespread perceptions that male children present a long-term economic benefit for the family, while female children are economic burdens, are the primary factors why a strong preference for male children over female children was found in Bangladesh, Jordan, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Korea and Syria.

Education

One of the prime targets of the UNFPA and the ICPD in Cairo will be to link education with improved status of women and ultimately to greater "balanced sustainable development."

"Educated women are an investment in sustainable development," the UNFPA report says. "Educated women command better jobs and salaries, marry later and have their first child later."

The role of education in enhancing women's social power is undisputed, the report states. According to the UNFPA, education will influence the number of children women "have" at what age and how they are spaced.

One example, cited by the report is Zimbabwe. It was found that women in Zimbabwe with no formal education have an average of seven children, women with some primary education have six children, while women with secondary or higher education have, on the average, fewer than four children.

The result is healthier mothers, healthier children and fewer children.

The aim of the ICPD will be to find ways to fulfill human rights, needs and aspirations, while fostering sustainable use of resources and a diverse and vigorous natural environment. Promoting equity between the genders will be an important aim of the conference. The main aim of the conference will be to discuss possibilities and viabilities of promoting birth control and putting a halt to the population explosion in the developing world.

At the conference, examples of what the UNFPA calls "success stories" will be cited to encourage other developing nations to adopt new governmental health and educational policies.

The Zimbabwe example will be one of several "success stories" cited as proof that governments' investments in population policies can be effective. The UNFPA report cites Zimbabwe as an example of a country where integrated policies have had an impact.

The UNFPA measured success of the integrated policy according by referring to a decrease in number of births. The average woman in Zimbabwe had eight children in the late 1960's. Today the average woman has 5.4. About 43 per cent of married women in Zimbabwe use a modern method of family planning or birth control methods.

One of the main methods used in efforts to reduce birth rates in Zimbabwe has been education of both male and female. There is universal access to education and an increase in literacy.

The empowerment of women to make their own minds up about size and timing of family will induce "slower global population growth in the early part of the next century" and will relieve pressure in a number of "problem areas" and grant time to find solutions.



Picture dated August 1944 of a Parisian fireman taking a photo of General Charles de Gaulle (centre in uniform), leader of the Free French, marching down the Champs-Élysées after Paris liberation (AFP photo)

Who saved Paris? 50 years later, the debate goes on

By Christopher Burns
The Associated Press

PARIS — At a time when the Allied and Nazi war machines laid waste to cities in their paths, Paris was liberated with monuments intact. Fifty years later, debate continues on who deserves the thanks.

"It's the Americans who liberated Paris," said Chantal Leger, 48, who owns the Rose Cafe on a street in central Paris where some of the heaviest fighting took place. Many American veterans agree.

But a former resistance fighter or veteran of the French 2nd Armoured Division who fought to retake Paris four years of humiliating occupation will claim the most credit. Hundreds of resistance fighters and French soldiers died in the battle for Paris.

This year, officials will mark the German surrender of Paris on Aug. 25, 1944, with a dramatic procession by 2,000 actors, fireworks and a dance on the Place de la Concorde.

On Aug. 26, 8,000 schoolchildren from across France will reenact the historic walk by Gen. Charles de Gaulle down the liber-

ated Champs-Élysées.

The liberation was an almost comic, and nearly tragic, combination of insubordination by Germans and French alike — a race between Allied and German reinforcements approaching the city, an orgy of celebration during and after the battle.

It was rich in political intrigue: De Gaulle elbowed past Communist resisters and collaborationist Vichy rulers, seeking to establish himself as the leader of postwar France and win over sceptics in Washington.

U.S. reluctance to recognize De Gaulle, called an "egoist" by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, and U.S. Gen. Dwight Eisenhower's decision to delay the liberation of Paris helped set the tone of relations that still remain testy.

By August 1944, two months after the landings in Normandy, the Allies were about 100 kilometres from Paris. Eisenhower chose a pincer-like strategy to encircle the capital and force a German surrender without the costly urban warfare that had leveled St. Lo, Cherbourg and Caen.

But the people grew im-

patient in Paris, where butter cost \$10 a pound, electricity was on only two hours a day and D-Day had raised hopes.

The Germans had goose-stepped down the Champs-Élysées more than 1,500 days. On the Eiffel Tower hung a huge "V" sign the Nazis borrowed from the Allies, accompanied by the declaration that "Deutschland siegt auf allen fronten" ("Germany is winning on all fronts").

On Aug. 19, resisters armed with guns and gasoline bombs launched their uprising. They took a beating from German tanks.

Hitler ordered Gen. Dietrich Von Choltitz, the Paris commander, to mine bridges and other sites. He was quoted as ordering the general to leave nothing but ruins, as Allied bombers were doing to German cities.

Von Choltitz refused because he "knew that the war was lost (and) realised that Hitler was a very sick man," his widow, Uberta, said by telephone from her home in Baden Baden, Germany.

De Gaulle, afraid a resistance victory in Paris would freeze him out, sent

a note to Eisenhower threatening to send in the French 2nd armoured whether the Allies agreed or not.

On that ultimatum, Eisenhower is said to have scribbled: "It looks now as if we'd be compelled to go into Paris." He sent the French division, led by Gen. Philippe Leclerc, and the U.S. 4th Division, as a reward for its heavy losses since Normandy.

Leclerc's force was held up by heavy German resistance south of Paris and, as U.S. Lt. Gen. Omar Bradley said, "a Gallic wall as townsfolk along the line of march slowed the French advance with wine and celebration."

Meanwhile, Hitler had dispatched reinforcements from the north that were to arrive within days.

Bradley was quoted as saying he could not wait for the French "to dance their way to Paris... To hell with prestige. Tell the 4th to slam on in and take the liberation."

The French managed to send a small group of tanks to city hall before midnight Aug. 24. The next day, French and U.S. forces knocked out German posts isolated by resisters, who

controlled most of the streets.

"The majority of Paris was liberated by the 2nd Division," said retired Gen. Jean Compagnon, 77, a former military attaché in Washington.

Russ Meyer, 72, disagrees. The American movie maker, an army cameraman at the time, said by telephone from his home in Palm Desert, Calif.: "I'll tell you who liberated it. It was the 1st American Infantry Division and the 4th Infantry Division. De Gaulle, and Vive la France, they didn't have to liberate France at all."

On Aug. 26, De Gaulle strode down the Champs-Élysées to a wild welcome from Parisians.

"The liberation really legitimised him," Compagnon said.

Three days later, Eisenhower arrived and American troops paraded down the Champs-Élysées before marching off to fight Germans north of the city.

"What I wanted was to see the situation in Paris under control, and as far as I was concerned De Gaulle was the best man to do that," Eisenhower wrote. "That's the effect I wanted and that's the effect I got."

Iraq in race between collapse and lifting sanctions

By Jack Redden
Reuters

BAHGDAD — On one side Iraqi President Saddam Hussein presides over a sinking economy, where children beg on the streets and inflation has pushed much of the population into poverty.

On the other, President Hussein sees foreign governments questioning the U.S. determination to keep Iraq isolated and the arrival of increasing numbers of businessmen anxious to re-new trade.

"Now it is a race," said a diplomat.

The quickening pace has become clear in recent months, with people wondering what will end first: President Hussein's hold on power or the U.N. oil embargo that has hobbled Iraq for four years.

The pressure showed in President Hussein's decision to take public control of the economy two months ago and issue decrees to slow inflation and conserve hard currency needed for vital imports.

His imposition of price controls had a predictable effect — tomatoes and potatoes have disappeared from public markets but can usually be found on the blackmarket for prices of two or three times the official level.

This is a new blow to average people who have seen living conditions decline relentlessly since U.N. sanctions — which ban oil exports and imports other than food and medicine —

were imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait four years ago.

"When I came in September 1 I did not find street children," said Subash Das-Gupta, UNICEF chief in Baghdad. "They have gone from selling to begging, the next stage — crime — is not far off."

That is the human face to grim statistics, such as the 20 per cent of elementary school children who Mr. Das-Gupta estimates are no longer attending classes.

A country that had a respected health care system before the invasion of Kuwait is now battling rising rates of everything from cholera to malaria.

"Initially Iraqis were very proud, they refused everything," said Bassam Qasem, an epidemiologist at the U.N.'s World Health Organisation (WHO) office. "Now they accept anything."

Figures used by the WHO show that by last February the frequency of low birth weight in Basra, deep in the south of Iraq, was nearly five times the rate reported in 1990.

That finding, reflecting the mothers' poor nutrition, helps explain why the WHO says the death rate for those under five years is now nearly seven times the 1989 level.

Deaths are also explained by a deterioration in drinking water blamed on breakdowns in water systems and a lack of gas for chlorination. WHO said tests in June showed 20 per cent of Baghdad's water was con-

taminated — better at least than the 34 per cent figure for Basra.

The government has tried to ease hardships through a ration system that provides about 70 per cent of daily food needs. But the estimated \$1 billion a year in a foreign currency to finance food imports is now in question.

No one knows if Iraq is near exhausting its funds hidden abroad or is just taking precautions in case sanctions are prolonged, but an effort to conserve hard currency is clear.

Since becoming prime minister as well as president two months ago, President Hussein has imposed high exit taxes to discourage travel and added 91 products from shampoo to fish to a list of banned imports. Diplomats have been ordered to change licence plates, with fees paid in dollars.

At home he has acknowledged a crime wave by ordering Islamic law for car theft — cutting off the thief's hand. So far there is no indication it has been carried out, or had any effect.

But President Hussein's hopes rest on international politics, not orders that have no influence over Iraq's main problem, the ban on oil exports that produce its foreign income.

He has been buoyed by growing doubts about the refusal of London and Washington to consider lifting the oil embargo until Iraq obeys Gulf war U.N. resolutions that go far

beyond recognising Kuwait and destroying weapons of mass destruction.

Other permanent members of the Security Council — from Russia and China — might be ready to lift the embargo if Iraq just accepts the newly demarcated border of Kuwait and accounts for 600 missing Kuwaitis.

Iraq, anxious to resume oil exports, reversed an obstructive policy this year and wants long-term monitoring of its arms industry demanded by the United Nations to begin.

"The (Iraqi) government has tried to ease hardships through a ration system that provides about 70 per cent of daily food needs. But the estimated \$1 billion a year in a foreign currency to finance food imports is now in question."

Destruction of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction has been completed and the head of a long-term U.N. monitoring programme arrived in Baghdad on August 1 to complete a system of sensors to ensure Iraq never again tries to build long-range missiles or chemical, nuclear or biological weapons.

If the U.N. centre opens by late September as intended, the U.N. commission on Iraq could report to the Security Council in a scheduled November report that monitoring has begun. It has to operate for about a six-month test period

before the Security Council would consider easing sanctions. That would make next May a possible date to reconsider the oil export ban.

Those deciding have conflicting interests. France sees Iraq as a traditional market and its businessmen have been prominent visitors. Russia does not want to appear subservient to the United States, which will oppose any easing if it feels the embargo is starting to hurt Iraqis enough to threaten President Saddam's hold on power.

Washington, having underestimated President Hussein's ambitions in the world's key oil producing region before, does not trust him to remain cooperative once he has oil money flowing in. It is a fear admitted even by those eyeing a lucrative market.

"The big question mark is whether they will still follow the policy of being the good boy of the region when the embargo is lifted," said a senior diplomat from one likely trade partner. "This is the main concern of everyone."



A man helps an old woman to stand up while other people shout in panic Friday as special militia forces (OMON) start to disperse a march of MMM shareholders from the White House along the Moscow streets. Below, an OMON soldier drags an arrested demonstrator (MMM shareholder). The demonstration was banned by the government (AFP photo).



Save water... every drop counts!

ASEAN seeks 10-year extension of preferential trade with U.S.

MANILA (AFP) — The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) has sought a further 10 years of preferential trading with the United States, saying lost revenues from lower tariffs would be offset by increased U.S. exports to the region, Philippine officials said Friday.

The Generalised System of Preferences (GSP) extended to developing countries such as those in ASEAN — Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — expires on Sept. 30 after a 15-month extension.

The six ASEAN ambassadors to Washington urged in a letter sent to

U.S. Trade Representative Michael Kantor that the GSP be extended for 10 more years instead of five years as proposed by the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton. Foreign Department officials here said.

Four of the largest beneficiaries of GSP are Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur, Manila and Bangkok. A GSP renewal will be included in legislation to implement the Uruguay Round agreement under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) to be drafted by the U.S. Congress, department officials said.

"We understand there are budget considerations,

but we would like to point out that security provided to beneficiary country producers and U.S. importers by a 10-year renewal is an extremely valuable feature," said the letter, copies of which were made available here Friday.

"As economies of the beneficiaries grow, so do opportunities for exporters, importers, and investors in the industrialised world," the letter said.

Foreign Department officials said ASEAN fears the prospects of \$12 billion in U.S. revenue losses due to the Uruguay Round agreement could prompt the U.S. Congress to opt for a shorter extension period.

Malaysia to develop fledgling fund management industry

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia is gradually freeing restrictions on its pension funds in an attempt to develop its fund management industry, to service local and foreign funds, officials have said.

Only five per cent of the country's assets of more than 72 billion ringgit (\$28.6 billion) at the end of 1993, were invested in corporate securities, said the Securities Commission director for research and development, Khairil Anwar Abdullah.

With a properly regulated, professional fund management industry, the nation's savings would be more effectively managed, he told reporters at a briefing.

"Malaysia will also be able to offer her own expertise to foreign funds looking for expert management in Malaysia, within the region and even on a global basis," said Mr. Khairil. "If we don't

do it, other competitors such as Thailand, will," he said.

Currently the lack of a clear regulatory structure and industry expertise is impeding the industry's growth, officials said.

Officials said portfolio restrictions on the country's largest pension fund, the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), were being eased to allow it a pivotal role in the growth of the fund management industry.

EPF will be allowed to invest a higher percentage of its assets in corporate securities. Now only five per cent can be thus invested.

"But it will have to be done very gradually to allow the local capital market to adjust the absorption," said Mr. Khairil.

A source said already 10 fund management companies were vying to handle EPF's vast portfolio of investible funds.

The EPF remains in structure a captive organisation for non-inflation financing of the government's borrowing requirements. By comparison, the government's trust fund, which was incorporated in 1993, with assets totalling 2.9 billion ringgit at the end of last year, had about 77 per cent of its assets invested in corporate securities.

Likewise, the armed forces fund invested over 65 per cent of its assets in corporate securities by the end of last year, Mr. Khairil said.

Officials said Malaysia was losing millions to foreign fund management companies due to the lack of industry expertise and a clear regulatory structure.

According to the central Bank Negara, portfolio fees earned by merchant banks have increased to 26 million ringgit, amounting to less than two per cent of their total fee-based income.

U.S. computer market heading for price war

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The world's number one personal computer manufacturer, Compaq Computer, has announced drastic price cuts that analysts said might be the first salvo in a new computer price war.

Experts predict the shakeup, expected to be in full swing this fall, will go beyond the computer industry and affect all branches of the electronics market, from components to state-of-the-art interactive compact disc players.

Compaq slashed prices on its computers from seven to 22 per cent in a dynamic bid to increase its share of the market but it left the margin on its most recent models intact.

The highest price cuts were registered on the least powerful models from the ProLinea series, which are slated to be upgraded in the near future, analysts from Dataquest Inc. and International Data Corp. said.

Compaq dropped prices on its older models after having registered the highest profit margin in the market — 8.4 per cent — in the second quarter and with shares valued at \$2.2 billion as of June 30.

The computer manufacturer, based in Houston, Texas, also dropped prices on computers using the Pentium microchip by seven per cent in line with reduced component costs.

Compaq officials denied however that they were seeking to provoke a price war or that they were hoping to get rid of their older models.

"The only reason we are doing this is to reposition ourselves for the busiest buying time of the year," autumn, said deputy director of sales, Gian Carlo Bisone.

"This is not an inventory fire sale. It's not to start any

war," he added.

Compaq ranked first in computer sales for the United States in two consecutive quarters, outpacing rival giants IBM and Apple Computer, according to Dataquest.

It had 14.3 per cent of the U.S. market share, Apple held 11.2 per cent, Packard Bell Electronics 9.3 per cent and IBM, 7.9 per cent.

Compaq outranked IBM as the world's number one computer manufacturer last year.

Apple, which was number one in the U.S. market up until this year, launched a new series of pocket computers, Power PC, in March in a bid to regain its market share.

Apple officials refused to comment on the Compaq price cuts.

IBM was expected to be directly affected by the move as it is already tackling a major overhaul of its personal computers division and hopes to launch a new line of models this fall.

"IBM is committed to being competitive and responsive to the market changes," IBM spokesman Mike Reiter said, adding: "We will remain competitive."

Intel, which manufactures the Pentium microchip, was to announce a price cut of up to 40 per cent on its products, according to Business Week.

Qatar Airways want seven new planes

DOHA (R) — Qatar Airways is to acquire seven new aircraft to serve routes it plans to open in the next few months, its chief executive has said.

"Four of the new aircraft we propose to acquire will be 100-seaters for short hauls in the Gulf and neighbouring countries and three will be wide-bodied for long-range international routes," Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Bin Jaber Al Thani told Reuters.

He said the airline, set up eight months ago, was weighing the options of either leasing or buying the new planes.

"We want to strengthen our position to become a major international player in Gulf aviation," he said.

Qatar Airways currently flies to 10 destinations in Asia, Africa and Europe with two Airbus A-310s and a Boeing 737.

New flights to Beirut, Damascus, Athens and Fajairah in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) are planned for September. Another flight to Al Ain in the UAE will start in August.

Vietnam clinches three major rice export contracts

HANOI (AFP) — Vietnam has secured long-term rice export contracts, with Malaysia, Brazil and the United States, which could be a major boost for its stagnant sector, a report said Saturday.

Minister of Agriculture and food industry, Nguyen Cong Tan, was quoted as saying that his ministry and the ministry of commerce had reached agreement on "stable rice exporting contracts" which Vietnam can honour in the long run.

Mr. Tan said Vietnam had signed a contract to export 500,000 tonnes of rice annually to Malaysia for the next five years, according to a report in Ho Chi Minh city's youth newspaper Tuoi Tre.

Mr. Tan added that another deal had been clinched with Brazil, which has agreed to buy 300,000 tonnes of rice from Vietnam, and stressed that the United States are expected to buy in the region of 700,000 tonnes of Vietnamese rice a year.

U.S. trading firm, American Rice, recently signed a deal to buy 300,000 tonnes or more of Vietnamese rice a year for the next three decades.

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COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Australia's Perkins responds to chasing Kiwis

VICTORIA, British Columbia (AP) — Australia's long distance swimmer star, Kieren Perkins, isn't used to having people catch up with him.

When he saw two New Zealanders trying to stop him winning his first Commonwealth Games gold medal in the 200 metres freestyle, the 800 and 1,500 specialist did something new.

He had to sprint. Perkins went out fast and had a clear halfway lead before New Zealanders Trent Bray and Danyon Loader made their late moves.

"I breathe on my right side and, during the third 50, I could see Trent right by me," Perkins said. "That was something I knew wasn't good for me and, at the third turn, I saw Danyon approaching."

"I put my head down and went for it. I don't think I breathed much over the last 25," said Perkins, who also competes in the three longer events here, 400, 800 and 1,500. "When I touched, I had absolutely no idea where I had finished."

"I have been working hard on sprinting in the last couple of months and my strength in the water has improved," said Perkins, who also is Olympic champion at 1,500.

"I'm really not a 200 swimmer but I was feeling more confident about the way I would swim the 200 this time."



Australian Melissa Carlton (right) is congratulated by teammate Kelly Barnes (centre) for winning the women's 100 metres freestyle Friday (AFP photo)

Perkins' 1 minute, 49.31 seconds beat the previous games mark of 1:49.58, set by Australia's Martin Roberts at Auckland four years ago.

Bray took second in 1:49.47 and Loader won the bronze in 1:49.53, both inside the previous games record.

The opening day of action certainly belonged to Australia, which hoped for even more success Saturday in swimming and shooting.

As well as winning four golds in the pool, the Australians triumphed in the men's and women's team cycling time trials, Christine Trefry

and Amette Woodward won the pistol pairs and Kim Fraser and Sylvia Purdie were first in women's smallbore rifle prone pairs.

Australia's Philip Adams and Bengt Sandstrom won the men's free pistol pairs.

The Canadians triumphed in men's team gymnastics and Jean-Francois Senecal and Wayne Sorensen won the men's six rifle pairs for the host nation.

Saturday saw the first diving medals and finals in wrestling as well as four swim finals, the men's 100 butterfly and 400 individual medley, and women's 200 freestyle

and 200 breaststroke.

Perkins was one of four Australians who won gold medals in the first five events in the pool. Make that five out of six if you include the first disabled Commonwealth Games swimming race, a 100 freestyle won by Melissa Carlton.

Phil Rogers edged England's Nick Gillingham to win the 100 metres breaststroke title in 1:02.62. Gillingham, who put in a late sprint, was only 0.03 behind at the finish with Canada's Jon Cleveland, who won the 200-metre title in Auckland four years ago.

Two minutes, Alan Smith, who got the Guenners' winner over Parma in Copenhagen, added the second and Ian Wright completed the rout in the 76th minute.

City had Uwe Rosier sent off late in the second-half for a second bookable offence. Along with Spurs, it was a good day for some of last season's other strugglers, with Liverpool giving newly-promoted Palace a 6-1 hiding at Selhurst Park.

Liverpool, relegation candidates at one stage last season, opened the scoring with a 12th minute penalty converted by Jan Molby. Steve McManaman added the second two minutes later and Robbie Fowler made it 3-0 just before the break.

Palace's misery was compounded by having their pre-season signing from Stock-

port County, £350,000 striker Andy Preece, stretched out in the opening minutes.

The Londoners pulled one back through Chris Armstrong but Liverpool skipper Ian Rush struck twice and McManaman once again to put the issue beyond doubt.

Fellow strugglers Southampton and Everton also had reason to be satisfied with their draws.

The Saints tamed Blackburn's eight million pound strike force of Alan Shearer and newboy Chris Sutton, and even enjoyed a 1-0 lead at half-time after Matthew Le Tissier sent a beautiful 40-yard pass through.

Just as important was a penalty saved by Southampton's Bruce Grobelaar, making his debut after leaving Liverpool and defying England centre forward Shearer.

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2nd round of U-18 basketball championship kicks off today

By Aileen Bannayan
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four teams return to action Sunday in the second round of the under-18 basketball competition, one of over 12 annual competitions organised by the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF).

Al Jazireh, Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxi and Al Abbasi will be vying for the title after eliminating Al Jalil, Al Hussein, Al Fuheis and Abu Nussair in the preliminary round of the tournament, sponsored by Opel.

Despite scoring six wins and losing only once just like Al Orthodoxi and Al Jazireh, it seems that titleholders Al Ahli will have a hard time retaining their title this season as Al Jazireh appear better prepared to add another trophy this season.

Along with Al Orthodoxi, Al Jazireh and Al Ahli are the top contenders for the season's basketball titles.

Al Jazireh clinched their first trophy of the season when they overcame Al Ahli to win the U-22 championship while Al Orthodoxi won the U-16 competition and regained the women's title after titleholders Al Jazireh abruptly pulled out of the competition last month citing technical irregularities and off-hand approach by the JBF.

Al Jazireh, sponsored by Aramex, are a growing powerhouse in Jordanian basketball. In addition to the women's title last year they also clinched the youth's under-14 and under-16 titles, while their men's team finished third in the first division, and second in the under-19 competition.

Al Abbasi are the newest face in top level competition. Though a second division club, they seem set to become one of the most active of the JBF's members, and have registered to play in most of the age-group competitions.

Al Orthodoxi, who dominated the Kingdom's basketball scene throughout the 1980s; are now aiming to regain their former glory which they handed to Al Ahli by losing the country's most prestigious basketball title — the first division championship.

Al Ahli ended their reign in 1990 and went on to win the title in 1992 and 1993.

Al Orthodoxi's basketball coaches are now preparing a younger lineup of players who are already giving other teams a hard time, proving that their club is still a powerhouse to be reckoned with.

Simpson defence challenges all DNA testing, TV movie delayed

LOS ANGELES (AP) — O.J. Simpson's lawyer sent a letter to the trial judge Friday challenging DNA testing on blood drops being analysed as evidence possibly linking the former football star to the killings of his ex-wife and her friend.

The letter contended that samples sent to a laboratory may have been mislabelled. A hearing on DNA evidence had been previously scheduled for Monday.

In the letter, lead attorney Robert Shapiro asks superior court judge Lance Ito to determine whether integrity of blood samples "has already been compromised by mislabelling, cutting, switching and other discrepancies to such an extent that the results of testing will be inadmissible."

Shapiro said he wants the court to determine the precise quantity of blood evidence available for testing, and he requested to know all people involved in obtaining, storing, cutting and preparing the samples sent to Cellmark Diagnostics in Maryland. He also said he wanted to know all people previously involved in handling samples.

The samples form a core of scientific evidence that could help convict or clear Simpson in the killings of Nicole Brown Simpson, 35, and Ronald Goldman, 25. The tests sometimes take months to complete.

Simpson, who appeared in movies and as a television sports commentator after retiring from football, is one of the most famous Americans to have been charged with murder.

UCLA law professor Peter Arenella was not surprised by Shapiro's letter.

"This is simply one element of a very elaborate defence strategy to constantly point to possible defects in the way the police have investigated evidence, gathered evidence and tested it," he said.

Meanwhile, sources close to the investigation told the Associated Press that preliminary tests on four blood drops found at the murder scene did not match Simpson's blood and have yet to be matched to anyone else's blood.

However, KNBC-TV cited unnamed sources Friday

saying a blood drop found on Goldman's shoe matched the victim's own blood. The television station also reported that both prosecutors and defence attorneys have received copies of the preliminary DNA results.

Shapiro wouldn't comment on preliminary DNA results. Other developments Friday:

CBS news said prosecutors are looking into Brian "Kato" Kaelin's testimony, based on reports that he told his friends more than he said on the witness stand. Kaelin testified that he heard three loud, alarming knocks on his bedroom wall the night of the murders.

KCBS-TV also reported Friday night that the testimony of two key witnesses has not yet been presented in open court. Two men walking on Bundy drive, near the condominium where the bodies were found, say they saw a black man arguing with a white man around 10 p.m.

Prosecutors have claimed the two were killed at about 10:15 p.m. on June 12, while Simpson's lawyers have tried to show it happened up to 45 minutes later.

Klinsmann scores for Tottenham, carried off injured

LONDON (AFP) — German World Cup star Jürgen Klinsmann scored a debut winner and was then stretchered from the field as Spurs beat Sheffield Wednesday 4-3 in a drama-packed opening to the Premiership.

Born-again Liverpool thrashed Crystal Palace 6-1, champions Manchester United beat QPR 2-0 with both sides down to 10-men and Arsenal ran out 3-0 winners over 10-man Manchester City.

Spurs, who struggled to avoid the drop and have since been hammered by the Football Association for financial irregularities, showed all of their fighting spirit away to Wednesday.

Teddy Sheringham broke the deadlock after 19 minutes and Darren Anderton added a second on the half-hour. But Wednesday struck

back in the second half levelling through Romanian Dan Petrescu and an own goal by Colin Calderwood only for future England star Nick Barmby to put Spurs back in front.

Klinsmann, the two million pound signing from Monaco, made it 4-2 in the 82nd minute with a headed goal on his debut, but was stretchered off after a clash of heads with Des Walker a few minutes later.

The drama wasn't over as David Hirst scored Wednesday's third but Spurs hung on grimly for their win.

Assistant manager Steve Perryman said Klinsmann needed "nine or 10 stitches in his mouth and has slight concussion. But he's joking now and he's very happy."

Another man with reason to be satisfied was Manchester United's Alex Ferguson.

Both sides were down to 10 men at the finish as referees around the country cracked down on sending-off offences. The drama started within 10 minutes with a red card for Rangers' Clive Wilson, who tripped United's Russian winger Andrei Kanchelskis.

But Ferguson's men were also one short when substitute Paul Parkey left the field five minutes after arriving. Mark Hughes and Bryan McClair got the goals in the second half.

Arsenal, who usually make a slow start to the season, showed the sort of form which won them the European Cup Winners Cup in May, beating Manchester City 3-0.

Kevin Campbell scored the country's first goal in the Premiership campaign, bundling the ball home after only

two minutes. Alan Smith, who got the Guenners' winner over Parma in Copenhagen, added the second and Ian Wright completed the rout in the 76th minute.

City had Uwe Rosier sent off late in the second-half for a second bookable offence. Along with Spurs, it was a good day for some of last season's other strugglers, with Liverpool giving newly-promoted Palace a 6-1 hiding at Selhurst Park.

Liverpool, relegation candidates at one stage last season, opened the scoring with a 12th minute penalty converted by Jan Molby. Steve McManaman added the second two minutes later and Robbie Fowler made it 3-0 just before the break.

Palace's misery was compounded by having their pre-season signing from Stock-

German 1st division results

Results of German first division matches played Saturday:
Dynamo Dresden 1
Bayer Uerdingen 1
Karlsruher 2
Eintracht Frankfurt 0
Bayern Munich 3
Borussia Dortmund 4

Werder Bremen 1
Duisburg 1
Freiburg 0
Cologne 0
Bochum 1
Munich 1860 0

Played on Friday:
Shalke 1
VfB Stuttgart 2
Bayer Leverkusen 0

Borussia Moenchengladbach 1
Hamburg 1
Kaiserslautern 1

Christie continues to rule in 100

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) — Linford Christie continued his regal reign over the 100 metres at Friday's Van Damme Memorial Track Meet, and Mike Powell and Colin Jackson came within one win of sharing a pot of gold.

In the women's 100, Gwen Torrence snapped the winning streak of Russia's Irina Privalova, who had been unbeatable ever since the U.S. runner edged her at the Goodwill Games.

In the penultimate Golden Four meet, Powell provided the best drama, with a winning come-from-behind jump over compatriot Kareem Streete-Thompson to keep a perfect record in the Golden Four meets alive with only Berlin to come.

Jackson cruised to an easy win in the 110 metres hur-

dles. After winning in Oslo and Zurich, victory in Berlin on Aug. 30 would give him at least half of 20 kilos in gold.

Four athletes went into the Van Damme with a shot at gold but American Derrick Adkins finished only fourth in the 400 metre hurdles and Kenyan Wilson Kipketer was beaten at the tape by countryman Patrick Konchellah in the 800m.

After winning a highly-charged 100 metres in Zurich Wednesday, Britain's Christie reconfirmed his supremacy over Americans Dennis Mitchell and Jon Drummond in a time of 10.03 seconds even though he was slow out of the blocks. Once the veteran was fully upright, he ran away from the field in the last 50 metres.

"If the conditions are bet-

ter, I can run a lot faster," said Christie afterwards. By tradition almost, the Van Damme was held in damp, windy conditions at the Heysel Stadium. Mitchell finished in 10.12 and Drummond in 10.16.

In the women's 100m, Torrence ran the second best time of the season in 10.83 seconds, easily beating Jamaica's Merlene Ottey into second place. Favourite Privalova, who beat Torrence in Zurich and won the European Championship last week, was third.

Jackie Joyner-Kersey also got revenge. After she was beaten in Zurich by Ukraine's Inessa Kravets and Germany's Heike Drechsler, she upstaged them in Brussels with a jump of 7.11 metres. Drechsler was second with 7.01.

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For inquiries please call the YWCA on telephones 641119-641793 between 9-1 except Sundays and Fridays.

Irvan hurt in practice crash

BROOKLYN, Mich. (AP) — U.S. stock car racing star Ernie Irvan was critically injured Saturday in a crash during practice for Sunday's GM Goodwrench Dealers 400 at Michigan International Speedway.

Irvan, who sustained what track and racing officials called "multiple injuries," was airlifted to St. Joseph Mercy Hospital in Ypsilanti, Mich. Nicknamed "Swervin' Irvan" for what some consider to be his dangerous style of racing, Irvan slammed into the concrete barrier in turn two on the 2-mile (3.2-kilometre), high-banked oval during the first practice session of the day.

LONDON, N.H. (AP) — Paul Tracy posted the fastest lap in practice Friday for Sunday's New England 200, a first step toward wiping out the memory of last year's disappointing Indy car finish.

Tracy turned in a time of 172.055 MPH (276.836 KPH) in an afternoon run, well above the official track record of 169.247 MPH (272.318 KPH) by Nigel Mansell at the New Hampshire International Speedway.

Mansell posted the time in a qualifying run for last year's race and went on to win in spectacular fashion, passing Tracy in the final three laps and then outduelling him to the finish.

Eight other drivers, including Mansell, also surpassed the record Friday on the nation's newest superspeedway. Qualifying for the race began Saturday.

Teo Fabi, suffering through a disappointing season, boosted his spirits with the fastest time in the morning session, 172.024 (276.787 KPH).

Behind him were Paul

Boesel, Mansell, Mario Andretti, Indy car series leader Al Unser Jr., Stefan Johansson, Emerson Fittipaldi and Eddie Cheever.

Tracy, the third member of this year's dominating Penske team, credited the condition of the track for the improved speeds.

"The track is much, much better than last year," he said. "We've got a lot of race track to work with. The track is in perfect condition."

Three weeks before last year's Indy car race, a Winston Cup race tore up the one-mile (1.6-kilometre) oval, and repaving efforts met with mediocre success. The track was resurfaced again after this year's NASCAR race and the extra three weeks between the two races seems to have made a difference.

Tracy comes into the race trying to close the gap between himself and his two Penske teammates. Unser, with six victories in the 11 races, has 153 points and Emerson Fittipaldi 117. Tracy has 91, with Michael Andretti on his heels with 90.

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Industry Division
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Tel: 606047 ext. 152
Fax: 6040612

Corretja upsets Edberg at hardcourt championships

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Third-seeded Stefan Edberg, describing his play as lethargic, was upset Friday by unseeded Alex Corretja of Spain at the RCA championships, leaving only one seeded player left for the semifinals.

Edberg lost 1-6, 6-2, 6-4, leaving seventh-seeded Wayne Ferreira of South Africa the only seed left at the Indianapolis Tennis Centre.

"I had no legs today," said Edberg, who less than 18 hours earlier looked good in a victory over Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands.

"I was one step too slow today, almost two steps from where I was last night. I think yesterday's match took a lot out of me more than I thought coming back today in the heat."

The victory over Edberg, currently no. 4 in the world, continued a dream week for the 20-year-old Corretja, who is in his first hardcourt

tourney of the year. He earlier beat fifth-seeded Jim Courier and 12th-seeded Andre Agassi.

Corretja noticed that Edberg was tiring at the end of the first set, which was dominated by the Swede.

"I saw him moving not so well, and I have to take this chance because you never know, maybe I can never beat him again. So today I had to take my chances," Corretja said.

Earlier, Ferreira posted a straight-set victory over Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, 6-2, 6-2, to advance to the semifinals, where he will face Corretja.

In the only match of the day between seeded players, Ferreira jumped off to a good start and never looked back.

"These are the matches that I tend to let the person back in, even though he is not playing well," Ferreira said. "But today I cut him off really quickly, which is good."

Enqvist, who was slowed earlier this year by a knee injury, praised his opponent's steady play while analyzing his own problems.

"I was trying to play my game and play aggressively," the 20-year-old Swede said, "but I just did too much unforced errors."

"My serve was not working today," Enqvist said. "If you are going to beat good players like Wayne, I mean you need to serve good."

Olivier Delaite continued his impressive run with a 6-4, 7-6 victory over Jonathan Stark of Seattle.

The Frenchman, earning a way into his second career semifinal, has yet to lose a set at the tournament.

Stark agreed that Delaite was sharp.

"He was really swinging from the hips, and came through big on the big points. I don't think I made too many mistakes, but he hit some very good shots," Stark said.



Boris Becker

Stich, Becker advance in Volvo International

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP) — No. 1 seed Michael Stich dropped a set for the first time in the Volvo International but still beat no. 8 Patrick Rafter 6-2, 5-7, 6-1 Friday in a tournament disrupted by rain for a third straight day.

Stich will play in an all-German semifinal with no. 3 Boris Becker, who advanced later with a 6-2, 6-4 win over no. 11 Mats Wilander in a match completed after a delay of nearly 2½ hours.

"I'm surprised your German colleagues are not here already," Becker joked to reporters about the interest in his country. "They may come tomorrow morning. Fly in overnight."

In the only upset of the day, no. 7 Marc Rosset beat Andrei Medvedev, the no. 2 seed and defending champion, 6-3, 3-6, 7-6 (8-6), in a match that didn't end until 11:35 p.m. because of the disrupted schedule.

No. 6 Yevgeny Kafelnikov was leading unseeded Marc Goellner 7-6 (7-2), 5-7, 3-1 when play was stopped at 4 p.m. The match was suspended until Saturday to make room on a lighted court for Stich's doubles match.

Stich was leading Rafter 6-2, 5-4 when his early match, which started 2½ hours late because of the first rain-delay

of the day, was stopped after it started to rain again.

After a 15-minute delay, Stich lost his service and the set. But he broke Rafter early in the third and went on to become the first player to advance to the semifinal before play was suspended a third time.

Play resumed about 5:30 p.m. for the start of the match between Becker and Wilander. Becker held a 3-0 lead when play was suspended a fourth time about 6 p.m., finishing him off after the 2½ hour delay.

Becker and Stich will meet for the ninth time. The two last met at Stuttgart in February, with Becker winning the match to take a 5-3 lead in the series.

The Volvo tournament, which has endured rain delays every year since moving to New Haven from Stratton Mountain, Vt., in 1990, was disrupted by two rain delays Wednesday and another one Thursday.

Stich has yet to play a match that hasn't been interrupted.

His opening match against Marcelo Rios in the second round was suspended because of rain Wednesday and resumed the next day. His match Thursday was delayed 5½ minutes when an emergency alarm was accidentally tripped.

Stich didn't fare as well after Friday's delay as he had during his first two interrupted matches, both of which he finished off in straight sets.

Rafter held service to tie the second set 5-5, then broke Stich for the first time of the match in the 11th game, chasing down a couple of drop shots that didn't seem reachable.

"It's not my fault I lost that set," Stich said. "He played really well."

After losing the set, Stich regrouped quickly and broke Rafter twice in the final set. Stich said breaking Rafter early was crucial because of the way Rafter closed out the middle set.

"That was very important," Stich said. "I made three return winners and he made a simple mistake."

Rafter had a good game, always getting to the right place at the right time. But he struggled to clear the net on his returns, hitting it several times for many of his unforced errors.

Stich, meanwhile, seemed to get the breaks at the net.

"That's just the way it goes," Rafter said. "I know Michael can sometimes be a little lazy, and I was hoping that would happen today. But he was on the top of his game."

Baseball walkout's 1st week takes toll

NEW YORK (AP) — Major league baseball's players strike began a second week Friday with more layoffs, more concern and a possible future in Japan for baseball's highest-paid player.

Millie Bonilla, the wife of New York Mets' third baseman Bobby Bonilla, said with a smile she has set a deadline for her husband to resume playing.

"I told Bobby I will give it two years. If they haven't settled by then, he has to go to play in Japan," she said.

Bonilla makes \$5.7 million this season, having already lost \$249,180 for cancelled games. Through Friday, 103 games had been wiped out, making this the second-longest strike in the sport after the 1981 player walkout that lasted 50 days.

George W. Bush, the son of former U.S. President

George Bush and the managing partner of the Texas Rangers, said he expects no World Series to be played this year.

"I hope I'm wrong, but I don't see it," said Bush, who hopes to be elected governor of Texas in November. "It looks like...long extended labour negotiations and I am very worried about it."

Talks are scheduled to resume Tuesday or Wednesday at the request of a government mediator. But there is little room for a compromise. Owners want to impose reduced salary limits while players want to keep payrolls the same. The average salary is \$1.2 million but the median salary paid to a mid-level player is just over \$500,000.

Charities that sell food, tickets, parking spaces and souvenirs have already been hit by the strike.

Demaria sets fastest time in Japan GP

SUZUKA, Japan (AP) — Yves Demaria of France set the fastest time here Saturday in the penultimate round of the world 250cc motorcycle championship series, preceding Sunday's Japanese Grand Prix.

"I can sleep better than other guys tonight," said 22-year-old Demaria, who steered his Honda to clock two minutes 01.369 seconds to take the best starting position.

"I came to Japan, of course, to win again. I'd like to confirm that I can win again, to confirm if I'm strong like Greg (Alberti) and Stefan (Everts). The lap time yesterday was also good and today it's perfect."

The Frenchman, who stepped up to the 250cc class this season and has won four races so far, has a narrow chance of overtaking.

Kurt Nicolson of Britain was the second fastest in 2801.652 on the 1,900-metre (1.19-mile) course, followed by Andrea Bartolini of Italy in 2:02.620.

Rattanapol retains IBF title

BURIRAM, Thailand (AP) — International Boxing Federation (IBF) mini-flyweight champion Rattanapol Sorvorapin of Thailand knocked out Marcelino Bolivar of Venezuela in the fourth round here Saturday.

The Thai champion out-fought the number four contender two minutes 57 seconds into the fourth round, when the referee stopped the contest, in Buriram, northeast of Bangkok.

After little action in the first, both fighters fought gallantly from the second round. Bolivar's counter right hook sent Rattanapol off-balance to receive an eight-count first.

Rattanapol came back with a heavy left hook to the face,

felling Bolivar for an eight-count.

Rattanapol dominated the rest of the bout with combinations of right upper cut and left hook, mostly to the face.

Bolivar was given another eight-count in mid-third round.

The fourth round was a one-sided affair. The Thai champion sent his Venezuelan challenger to the canvas to receive eight counts twice and finally a knockout count at the third fall.

Rattanapol improved his fight record to 19 wins, including 14 knockouts, one draw, and two losses, while Bolivar's record turned 17 wins, including 16 knockouts, and three losses.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAMARA HIRSCH
Tribune Media Services, Inc.

ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠A103 ♥KQJ42 ♦QJ7 ♠A6
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1 ♠ Pass
2 ♠ Pass ?
What do you bid now?
A.—Your hand is not quite good enough to bid game and you can't even be sure four hearts would be the right game. Partner might have raised with three hearts and four (or even five) spades. Therefore, we would make a game try with two spades.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K7652 ♥AKQ863 ♦102 ♠Void
What is your opening bid?
A.—We have great respect for the trick-taking power of hands with 6-5 distribution—so much so that we would choose to open four hearts rather than one heart. Even vulnerable that high-level preempt should be the winning option more often than not.

Q.3—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠KQ987 ♥KJ106 ♦1098
The bidding has proceeded:
South West North East
Pass 1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 NT
Pass Pass 3 ♠ Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—Partner has not yet been doubled, so the temptation to pass is great, since partner surely has at least a five-card spade suit (or a very good four-carder). However, it is your duty to see that your side

plays in its best suit, so correct to four clubs.
♠KJ53 ♥K77 ♦Q8 ♠97653
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?
A.—Let's suppose you respond one spade and partner rebids two diamonds. Now, a preempt to two hearts is an overbid and three hearts is an overbid. You can avoid these problems by raising to two hearts immediately. See the first question.

Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:
♠973 ♥AK ♦K104 ♠KJ854
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
1 ♠ Pass Pass ?
What action do you take?
A.—In the immediate next no action could be considered over an opening bid. However, experience has shown that it is best to play unbalanced at the one or two level. In the balancing position, therefore, we would reopen by bidding two clubs, with one no trump as a second choice.

Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:
♠K6 ♥10643 ♦AK5 ♠K1086
The bidding has proceeded:
North East South West
1 ♠ Pass 1 NT Pass
2 NT Pass ?
A.—Partner's raise to two no trump is invitational, asking you to bid game if you are at the top of your range for your first response. Since you could hardly have more, bid three no trump.

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Graf, Pierce, Date, Sanchez Vicario advance in Matinee

MONTREAL (AP) — Steffi Graf shrugged off a poor start and won the final 11 games to beat Gabriela Sabatini 7-5, 6-0 late Friday in a quarter-final match in the Matinee international tournament.

The top-seeded Graf, whose sore back caused her to stop play twice for treatment Wednesday, started slowly against Sabatini, training 5-2 at one point with Sabatini serving at 30-love.

But Graf won the next five games to take the first set,

and in the second set she won all six games.

"I was a little bit nervous at the beginning of the match and Sabatini was playing very well," Graf said.

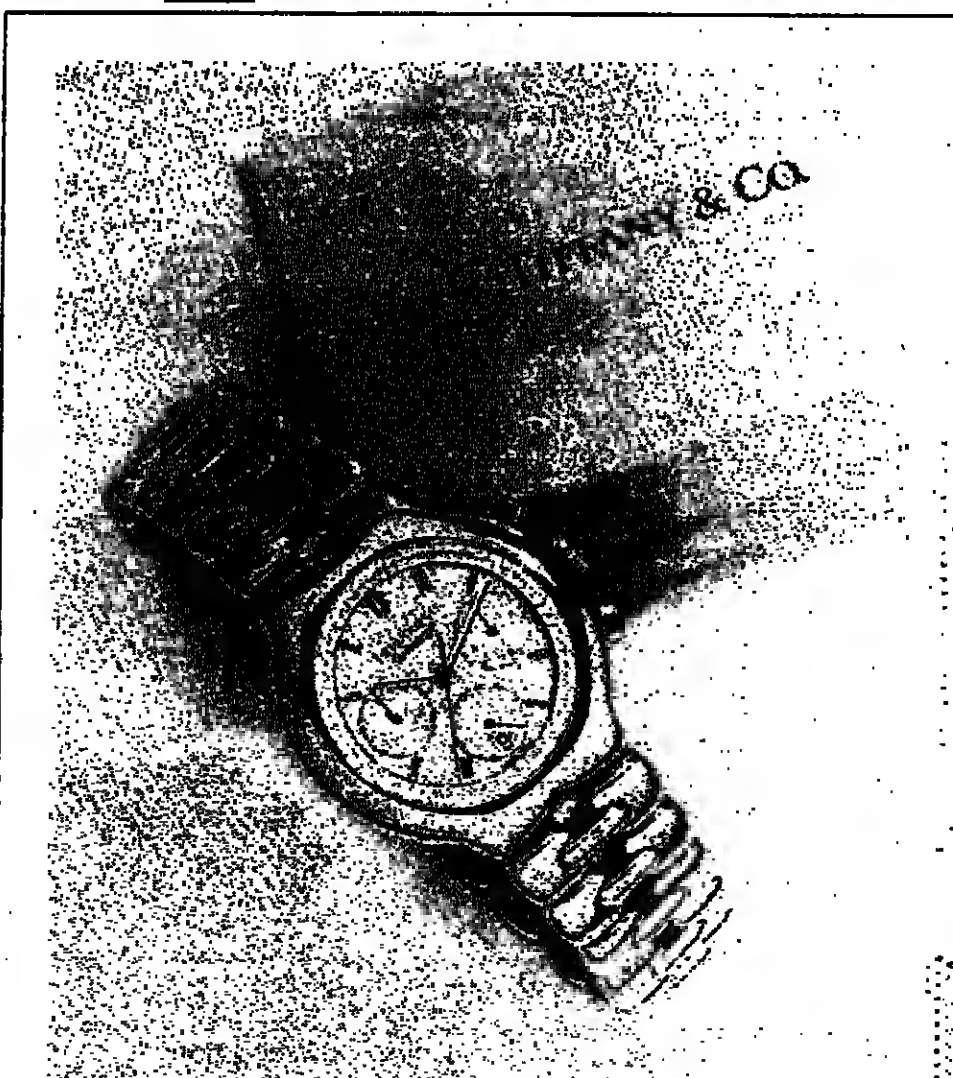
"But I thought I could get back into it if I just kept the ball in play and waited for the right moment to attack. Then, it finally came in the eighth game."

"I was attacking and doing exactly what I wanted. Then, she started to come back and

I guess my mind just went off somewhere," Sabatini said.

No. 2 seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario defeated unseeded Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria 6-2, 6-1 in another quarterfinal. She will play in the semifinals against Japan's Kimiko Date, who beat unseeded Nathalie Baudone of Italy 4-6, 6-2, 6-0.

"I've been playing in the early matches all week because maybe people think the other matches are more interesting," said Sanchez



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كنا في الحفل

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kuwait urged to be realistic on population

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait's failure to achieve its goal of balanced numbers of Kuwaitis and foreigners has damaged the credibility of the government and shows the need for a realistic population policy, economists said on Saturday.

"It is not important to announce idealistic targets, rather to produce studies that are feasible and of good quality," the Al Shall economic consultancy said in a weekly commentary. Official figures published this month show Kuwaitis now number 38 per cent of the growing 1.77 million population, down from 43 per cent of a total 1.5 million a year ago. Stung by what it saw as disloyalty by some foreigners, especially Palestinians, during Iraq's 1990-91 occupation, the government said it would never again allow non-Kuwaitis to become a minority in their own country.

Thai premier chides Saudi envoy

BANGKOK (AFP) — Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has chided a Saudi envoy here for criticising Thailand's inability to quickly resolve the \$20 million theft of gems from Saudi Arabia, news reports said Saturday. Following accusations by Saudi Charge d'Affaires Mohammad Said Khoja that the government is covering up Thai police involvement in the crime, Mr. Chuan told local reporters that Mr. Khoja should let the authorities handle the case according to Thai legal procedures. "This is not an easy case," Mr. Chuan said. "And the government, in particular, does not want to do anything superficial to simply get rid of the issue." The case involves the 1989 theft of 90 kilograms of jewellery from the palace of a Saudi prince by a Thai servant. The Thai was arrested after fleeing to Bangkok, but only about 30 per cent of the gems were returned. The Saudis say they suspect the Thai police kept some of the loot, and add that much of the returned jewelry was fake.

Algeria's TV starts satellite broadcasting

TUNIS (R) — Algeria's television and radio channels began broadcasting on Saturday by satellite in the direction of Europe, the Middle East and North Africa, Algerian Radio said. Broadcasting is conducted via Eutelsat.

8 tribesmen killed in Iran clash

TEHRAN (AFP) — Revolutionary Guards militiamen have killed eight suspected members of a gang of bandits and drug traffickers in southeastern Iran, the official news agency IRNA reported Saturday. The tribesmen belonging to the Naruwi tribe in Sistan and Baluchestan province were killed in an operation in the Gaveh-Bareh region, it said without giving a date. Several suspects escaped but the security forces seized a large amount of ammunition and vehicles. IRNA said last week that nine members of the same tribe had been killed in clashes with security forces in Sistan and Baluchestan. The Naruwi, one of the province's main tribes, are at war with the authorities.

Hizbollah blasts house of rival faction

TYRE (AFP) — Hizbollah guerrillas dynamited a house in South Lebanon wounding eight people in a revenge attack on its rival Shiite movement Amal, security officials said Saturday. Hizbollah men surrounded the house late Friday in Bir Al Salsel, east of this port city and about 80 kilometres south of Beirut, after an earlier clash in the village between armed men belonging to the rival factions. They blew up the house wounding four men, two women and two children who were taken to hospital. A joint delegation of Amal, Hizbollah and Lebanese army officials visited the village on Saturday on a mission to restore calm, the security officials added. Amal, which is close to Syria, and the Iranian-backed Hizbollah fought deadly battles in Beirut and southern Lebanon in 1987 and 1988 during Lebanon's 15-year civil war.

Iran plans 2,200 weddings to mark holy occasion

NICOSIA (AP) — Some 2,200 young couples will be married in mass weddings in nine provinces across Iran next week during celebrations marking the birthday of the Prophet Muhammad, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday. The Imam Khomeini Relief Committee, a charity established in the name of the Islamic republic's late founder, announced that it was financing and arranging the weddings to be held Aug. 25-28. It also was providing dowry for the brides.

Velayati in Syria for meeting on Iraq

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati arrived here Saturday for three-way talks with his Turkish and Syrian counterparts on the situation in Iraq. The official Syrian news agency SANA said he was welcomed by Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa. Turkey's Muntaz Soysal was also expected to attend the meeting Sunday. All three countries border Iraq and carefully monitor the situation there, especially the break-away northern part under Kurdish control since 1991. Hundreds of people have been killed since May in fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq. SANA said the talks, which are held twice a year in one of the three countries, would also deal with "regional questions and cooperation." They were postponed twice after originally being set for July. The latest temporary ceasefire in northern Iraq between Jalal Talabani's Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and forces loyal to Masud Barzani's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) was broken on Tuesday.

U.S. Navy rescues Egyptian sailors

DUBAI (R) — A U.S. Navy ship on Saturday rescued 10 Egyptian sailors who drifted for nine days in a lifeboat in the Arabian Sea after their cargo ship sank, the Navy said. The crew of the Salem 12 abandoned ship as it sank on Aug. 11 but no word of the disaster came until Saturday after 15 of its 31 crewmen reached the Omani coast in lifeboats, the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command in Bahrain said in a statement. The U.S. supply ship, the Mars, picked up 10 more sailors from a lifeboat in choppy seas on Saturday after spotting signal flares, the statement said. Six men are still missing. "The survivors appeared to be in good condition, with only minor sun rashes. (They) said it had been seven days since they lost sight of the other lifeboats and they were down to one day's worth of food and water when sighted," it added. A navy spokesman said it was not yet known why the 9,000-tonne gross weight Egyptian ship had sunk or what its destination was.

Former Soviets held in brothel murders

FRANKFURT (R) — German police have arrested a married couple from the former Soviet Union on suspicion of strangling six people in a high-class Frankfurt brothel, a spokesman said on Saturday. The spectacular crime in a smart area of Germany's financial capital has drawn public attention to the large number of women from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union being brought to Germany to work as prostitutes, often against their will. The victims were the two Hungarian owners of the brothel and four prostitutes from the former Soviet Union. The suspects were being detained on Thursday morning at a hostel for ethnic German immigrants in southern Germany. Police declined to give the couple's full names but the mass-circulation daily Bild said they were both ethnic German immigrants from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

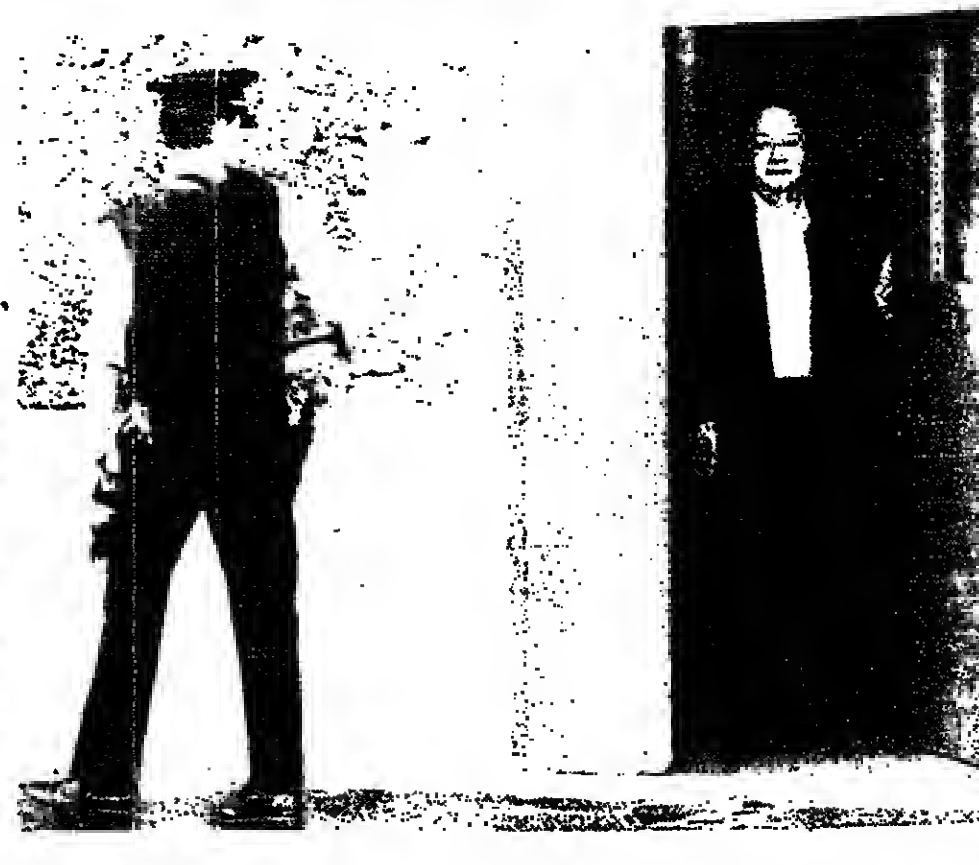
CIA helped capture Carlos, official says

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) helped France capture Carlos, the accused international extremist, handed over to Paris by Sudan this week, an official said Friday.

The official, who asked to remain unidentified, said the U.S. agency "helped close the noose by steadily denying Carlos safe havens," adding that "tracking his movements was a key CIA contribution to the French success."

The official declined to elaborate on any specific CIA actions but the New York Post reported that the CIA tipped off France in January that Carlos was in Sudan.

Known as Carlos the Jackal, 44-year-old Ilich Ramirez Sanchez was turned over to France on Monday to face charges in the 1975 killings of two counter-intelligence officers and a 1982 Paris bombing.



Relief under way for Algeria quake area

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Rescue workers searching mountain villages levelled by an earthquake were still finding bodies two days after the catastrophe, raising the death toll to at least 171 people, the Interior Ministry said Saturday.

Heavily armed soldiers were assisting in the rescue operation around Mascara, in northwest Algeria, where Islamic extremists waging a war to bring down the government have carried out attacks in the past.

Tents, blankets, food and water were being ferried by trucks and helicopters to the area, 360 kilometres west of the capital for the estimated 10,000 people left homeless by Thursday's quake. Some of the supplies were parachuted into the mountainous region where access is difficult.

Water supplies were being tightly controlled to guard against cholera, typhoid and other waterborne diseases. Inoculations against tetanus were provided to the 289 people injured.

Under a crushing summer heat, the homeless made their way to four principal tent cities that went up around the region.

Donations of blood for the injured were being collected around Algiers.

There was a clear effort by the military-backed government to take full control of the situation early on so that Muslim fundamentalists would not step in to fill the void. After the 1989 earthquake in Tipaza, outside Algiers, fundamentalists played a major role in organising relief operations.

The main fundamentalist party, the Islamic Salvation

Front, was then at its height. It has been banned since March 1992 as part of a crackdown that triggered violence which has not abated since then.

Premier Mokdad Sifi said in a visit to the devastated region that the government would try to help the homeless rebuild their houses before winter, when the mountain temperatures turn bitterly cold.

The earthquake struck before dawn Thursday, collapsing some 1,500 dwellings, mostly mud-and-straw huts in rural areas or small villages, on top of their sleeping occupants.

No international request for aid has been launched, and relief groups expressed wariness about sending teams to the country, where 58 foreigners have been killed in the

past year by extremists.

The rebels hope to isolate and topple the country's military-backed regime, installed in a coup that robbed a Muslim fundamentalist party of election victory in January 1992.

Two Saudi and Kuwaiti cargo planes flew tents and medicine into Algeria Saturday.

An aftershock Saturday damaged the homes of eight families living in the town of Mohammadia forcing officials to evacuate them, officials said.

A French plane with food was expected to land at the military airport at Tafaraoui, near Oran in western Algeria, later Saturday. Aid was also expected from Italy and the European Union aid programme.

Meanwhile in Mascara, the

area most affected by the quake, Algerian army officers continued efforts to try to get food and first aid by helicopter to the isolated mountain villages.

Most of the homeless spent their second night outdoors as there were not enough tents to shelter them. A thousand tents were distributed but authorities were expecting another 4,000 or 5,000 tents to meet everyone's needs.

The great majority of those left homeless are refusing to move away from their destroyed homes.

Food stocks in the area are sufficient to cover the needs for the next three days at least, said a local official, although food collections in the region are still being organised to bring them into the quake zone.

Mandela has eye vaporised

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — President Nelson Mandela's left eye was vaporised late Friday in a short procedure aimed at improving his vision following a cataract operation, his ophthalmic surgeon said. A laser was used to clear up a cloudy membrane over the eye and ophthalmologist Percy Amoils said the three-minute procedure was quick, painless and successful. The 76-year-old South African leader underwent cataract surgery on July 13 in an operation Dr. Amoils said was more complicated than anticipated, due to damage to Mr. Mandela's tear ducts caused by the alkalinity of the limestone quarry on Robben Island Prison, where he spent most of his 27 years behind bars. Two stitches from the first operation were also removed on Friday and Dr. Amoils said the prognosis for Mr. Mandela's vision was good.

Clinton turns 48

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton turned 48 Friday with wishes that Congress would pass his anti-crime and health care reform proposals and that fortune would smile enough to permit him a late summer vacation. It was one of the few presidential birthdays to be marked over national television. Later, off screen, reporters persisted in asking even more questions during the cutting of a birthday cake in the state dining room. Mr. Clinton begged off answering. He said he was glad the cake had no candles to blow out, because "I have expended all of my hot air on you." At the end, Mr. Clinton was asked if he cared to make three wishes on his birthday. The three: 1. "I would wish for the crime bill to pass." 2. "If we can open our minds and hearts to each other and play a little less politics, we can solve the health care problem, too." 3. "And I would wish that I won't have to give up my whole vacation because I still have dreams of breaking 80 on the golf course before I'm 50." "I woke up this morning just grateful to be here. That's what I'm feeling," the president said. "I'm grateful to be alive, grateful to have my health, grateful to have my family..." and for the opportunity to serve the country. "You know, I like the tough fight, so this is an exhilarating period for me. I like the big challenges. I think we're all put on this earth to try to make a difference," he went on. How about birthday presents? "I got him a huge globe," said his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton. "He wanted an updated globe because all of our globes are outdated" by changes since the end of the cold war. Tipper Gore, wife of Vice President Al Gore, turned 46 Friday, and Mrs. Clinton said the two couples might celebrate together with howling.

Diana biographer writes new book of 'confidences'

LONDON (AFP) — Andrew Morton, whose biography of the Princess of Wales Diana: Her True Story became a world-wide bestseller, has written a new book Diana: Her New Life which should be on sale by November, according to the mass circulation Sun newspaper. The paper, which cites the book's editor Michael O'Mara, said its publication would coincide with the publication of another book concerning the princess's estranged husband and heir to the British throne, Prince Charles, based on a recently broadcast television documentary in which he admitted being unfaithful to his wife. Mr. Morton's new book, which claims to be based on confidences revealed by "some of Diana's closest friends and advisors" recounts "the secret battles that have raged behind closed doors, and Diana's constant frustration as she endeavours to break free from the restrictions of her semi-detached royal life." The first Morton biography, which was published before the royal couple officially separated in December 1992, revealed that their marriage was in serious difficulties and painted a picture of Diana as a fragile, suicidal woman who had serious dietary problems.

Tutu criticises Mandela over salaries and arms

CAPE TOWN (AP) — Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu delivered a stinging criticism Saturday of President Nelson Mandela's government for its members' high salaries and for continuing to make weapons.

"I have been deeply disappointed that one of the first actions of the new parliament was to vote themselves those large salaries," the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize winner said in remarks prepared for a meeting of his church's regional leaders.

Mr. Tutu's questioning of the integrity and credibility of the Mandela government came as the country's first black president marked 100 days in office.

In a speech to parliament Thursday, Mr. Mandela said reconstruction of the racially divided country was on track and improvement of life for the impoverished black majority had started.

But Mr. Tutu, who won the Nobel for his anti-apartheid activism, said the lawmakers elected in April's first all-race vote had already "set a bad example."

"They missed a golden opportunity in my view to demonstrate that they were serious about stopping the gravy train," he said. "Someone has observed that they stopped the gravy train only long enough to get on."

Ordinary parliament members



Desmond Tutu

Rwanda and Sudan, "we cannot keep quiet."

Warning that Mr. Mandela "could easily become the target of demonstration and pickets," he urged that "we should pursue the campaign for a gunless society."

He said his church should never be co-opted. "We must never allow ourselves to become this or that party at prayer. However laudable its policies. We must always maintain a critical distance or be in critical solidarity with them."

Before the election, Archbishop Tutu made a controversial ruling that Anglican priests could not be card carrying members of any political party. On Saturday he said the decree would be reviewed at a bishops' meeting in September.

Israeli-Palestinian talks on Jerusalem in Rabat

RABAT (Agencies) — Israeli and Palestinian negotiators, meeting in the Moroccan city Casablanca, have clashed on the future of Jerusalem, the Moroccan press agency MAP said late Friday.

Reporting on the session for the first time, the agency said the talks began Wednesday behind closed doors and were suspended Friday. They are to resume Monday.

The agency, citing an unnamed Palestinian source, disclosed that "differences emerged during the discussions, notably on the Jerusalem question."

Palestinian delegates denounced "Israeli actions and statements on the future of Jerusalem and its holy places," according to the source.

Israel has proclaimed a unified Jerusalem as its "eternal and undivided capital," while the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sees East Jerusalem as the capital of a future Palestinian state.

The PLO was in addition upset by a July 25 agreement between Jordan and Israel ending their belligerency that recognised Jordan's "historic role" in the administration of Muslim shrines in Jerusalem. The Palestinian team here has also put forward two proposals, the presence of Jewish settlers in the two

autonomous areas, the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. Either they remain as Palestinian citizens or they get out of the territories, leaving intact their physical property.

MAP said the Israeli position in the Casablanca talks on both the future of Jerusalem and the overall status of the settlers was not disclosed.

But it added that the Israelis had rejected a Palestinian proposal that the settlers be disarmed. The four-member Israeli delegation has been drawn from Israel's parliament, the Knesset, and is headed by Ely Dahan.

The Palestinian team is led by Ahmad Tabi, a political adviser to PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, according to MAP.

The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) criticised Israel on Saturday for efforts to "Judaize" the city, which contains Islam's third holiest sites.

"Twenty-seven years after occupying the city... the Israeli occupation authorities still continue to execute its design aimed at Judaizing the city and obliterating its Arab and Islamic image," a statement by the Jeddah-based OIC's secretary general, Hamid Algabid, said.

The week that showed how world has changed

By Nicholas doughy,

Reuters

BRUSSELS — Within the space of a few days last week, something unique happened: An era came to an end and a new age began.

"Carlos the Jackal," the most feared of a generation of guerrillas who struck in Europe and the Middle East during the 1970s and 1980s, was finally run to ground and dumped in a Paris jail to await trial.

But Western governments hardly had time to breathe a sigh of relief before they were grappling with a new threat that is potentially far more deadly—the smuggling of nuclear material that might be used to make bombs.

The two episodes underline how much the world has changed in recent years.

Carlos, a convinced Marxist guerrilla who spent much of his life fighting against what he saw as imperialism and Zionism, had lost the backing of many states that

gave him shelter and support in various ways during the cold war.

At the height of his notoriety, he was the most feared of the urban guerrillas who bombed and blasted their way across Europe and the Middle East.

During the 1970s and 1980s, Western governments struggled with groups like the German Red Army Faction (RAF), Italy's Red Brigades and the Japanese Red Army. Most of their members are now dead, behind bars or have renounced violence.

Their struggle was a part of the defining clash of ideologies that had lasted since the end of world war two—communism versus capitalism.

No longer.

Since the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the world seems less stable. Conflicts in Bosnia, the republics of the former Soviet Union and elsewhere have raised questions about what sort of

order is needed and who should be in charge.

The overwhelming threat of global nuclear war, which effectively suppressed many of these conflicts for decades, has disappeared. The United States, now the world's only superpower, seems unsure of its role.

In the midst of this new uncertainty, one of the greatest fears concerns the future of Russia—and more particularly what will happen to its nuclear warheads and technology.

This week, as Carlos was captured in Sudan and brought to France, some disturbing answers to that question surfaced.

Germany, which has seized four smuggled shipments of plutonium and uranium thought to come from Russia, tried to forge an international front against the trade.

Western governments worry that developing countries, or groups could try to get their hands on the bomb and

that the collapse of the Soviet Union could make it easier for them.

Casting anxious glances at countries like Iran and Algeria, they regard Islamic fundamentalism as one of the potential new threats to their security—a new kind of threat that might one day be backed up with nuclear blackmail.

European experts said this week that some of the four seizures in Germany in the past months involved plutonium-239 and highly-enriched uranium from Russia's military complex.

While the United States has cast doubt on how useful the shipments might be for bomb-making, European experts say the high level of radioactivity could still threaten life and be attractive to criminal gangs.

Plutonium-239 is so toxic that one-millionth of a gramme can kill, and experts have said that the 300 grammes seized at Munich airport last

week would have been sufficient to contaminate the drinking water of all of Germany.

Russia, which had vehemently denied any leaks in its vast nuclear stocks, announced an investigation on Thursday and reported several arrests for trying to sell stolen radioactive substances.

While German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed to work together, German Interior Minister Manfred Kanter called for broader international cooperation to plug any possible nuclear leakage out of the vast Soviet stock.

"This new phenomenon cannot be mastered by one country alone," he said. "We need international cooperation going even beyond the European Union."

To those who remember the urban guerrillas of the 1970s and 1980s, his words had a familiar ring.